

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

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No. 1895.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1853.

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REVIEWS.

Correspondence, Despatches, and other Papers, of Viscount Castlereagh, Second Marquess of Londonderry. Edited by his Brother, Charles William Vane, Marquess of Londonderry, G.C.B. Vols. IX—XII. Murray.

WE have at length got the whole of the Castlereagh papers and despatches. The four volumes now published, forming the third series of the collection, are the most important in their contents, embracing the period when Lord Castlereagh was Secretary for Foreign Affairs, from 1813 to 1822. There is no question as to the great historical value of these records of a statesman who long held a position so prominent in the British government, and exercised so great an influence both at home and abroad. With abilities and eloquence far inferior to those of Fox and Pitt, Grattan and Canning, and other great men of his times, it was the good fortune of Lord Castlereagh to bring to a successful issue transactions which had baffled them all. In early life, when sent as chief secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, he was mainly instrumental in bringing about the union with Great Britain. On the Continent one coalition of sovereigns after another had failed to humble the pride or to check the power of France. One of the most disastrous of these attempts had ended in the defeat of Austerlitz, and the disappointment of all his hopes and plans had broken the mighty heart of Pitt. When Castlereagh obtained the management of foreign affairs the fortunes of the continental war were still doubtful, and there was need of all the vigour, activity, and determination with which Great Britain had sustained the struggle against the gigantic power of Napoleon. Not satisfied with being foreign minister, he became his own ambassador in 1814, joined the allied sovereigns at the head of their armies, shared in their counsels, cheered them in their reverses, entered the French capital with their victorious troops, and returned in triumph to his place in the House of Commons with the treaty of Paris in his pocket. Nor was his acquisition of influence and his long possession of power obtained without effort and danger, the rivalry of able statesmen and the opposition of formidable adversaries. In the Irish parliament he had to encounter the hostility of Grattan and Foster, and to buy off the rancour of many a noisy patriot; while in his own cabinet, after the deplorable failure at Flushing, in 1809, Canning was so disgusted and enraged at what he did not scruple to call his imbecility, that he tried to get rid of him by means which so provoked Castlereagh that he challenged his colleague, and wounded him in the famous duel which was the consequence of the quarrel. He remained the master of the cabinet, and for many years, in spite of his acknowledged superiority in talent and in eloquence, Canning was ostracised by an embassy to Lisbon, and did not regain power till, in 1822, his unhappy rival, then Marquis of Londonderry, died by his own hand. The excitement of these events is still fresh in the memory of many, nor is it our purpose to reopen any of the personal or political controversies connected with that time. What is most worthy of historical remembrance in the career of Castlereagh is now left on record in the correspondence and despatches selected and

edited by his brother, the present Marquis of Londonderry, who thus explains the circumstances under which he has performed his editorial duties and labours:—

"That the correspondence is imperfect—that there are many deficiencies and interruptions in some interesting portions of it—is but too evident; but these were occasioned by the state of mutilation and confusion in which (as I have already explained) I ultimately recovered the papers from the executors and the Court of Chancery. I could do little more than arrange, in somewhat of order, a great mass of materials, which—though not as complete as I expected to receive them—are still, I hope, of much personal interest and considerable historical value. On the other hand, it may be thought that portions of the correspondence are redundant, and might have been curtailed or suppressed, but I have been unwilling to exercise an arbitrary judgment on such points, and I have preferred giving, perhaps, too much to incurring the suspicion of having made a partial and one-sided selection. Where there could be any question between good taste and good faith, I have abided by the latter. I have, however, endeavoured to avoid, as much as possible, anything that could be injurious or even painful to individuals. I am well aware that in the course of so various a correspondence, relating to times and circumstances so comparatively recent, there will be found strong opinions, both on persons and subjects, from which there may be equally strong dissent; but this is inevitable in any such publication, and I hope such instances will be found as rare, and, at least, as pardonable in this, as in other similar works which have been received with general approbation. I can only say, that I have been anxious to avoid giving any offence anywhere, and if I have inadvertently done so, I beg leave, by anticipation, to express my regret, and to offer this apology.

"If it be said that the publication might have been postponed to a period in which there would be less risk of giving offence, I reply, that this would only be to postpone it to times when people should be utterly indifferent to the subject—when error and injustice might have taken root in public opinion—and when a work, meant to afford materials for history, would be really of no more interest than an *old almanack*."

The ninth volume of the correspondence, the first of the present series, begins with the year 1813, the opening letter, from Sir Charles Stewart to Lord Castlereagh, being dated January 2nd of that year. Among the papers of this period none are more interesting at the present moment than those of Lord Aberdeen, who, after the lapse of forty years, with vigorous intellect and matured judgment, presides over the government of the British empire, which in early life he served with zeal and ability both at home and abroad. We give an extract from one letter in which references occur to Metternich, Nesselrode, and other distinguished diplomatists, for any of whom in judgment and tact Lord Aberdeen was a match:—

"I had a very long conversation with the Emperor (Alexander) yesterday morning; being, as usual, quite alone with him, he talked with great freedom: he is more decided than ever as to the necessity of perseverance, and puts little trust in the fair promises of Bonaparte. So long as he lives, there can be no security—he repeated it two or three times. We had just received the news of the capture of Zara, at which the English frigates, and especially Captain Cadogan, had greatly assisted. He spoke with a degree of warmth and feeling about the English, which I have rarely witnessed. He said, 'They are my friends, and the friends of my family—I always like to see their faces. Among many things which have made me unhappy of late years, I have felt the absence of the English.' It is a feeling he has cherished from the beginning of his reign; whenever he sees an Englishman, he thinks he sees a friend. All this

is of little consequence, but it is as well to write it, because, whatever may be thought of the Minister, falsehood and deceit are perfectly unknown to the Emperor.

"I hope you will be satisfied with Metternich's treatment of the maritime question. The sentiments of Nesselrode are not less favourable; but I fear the Emperor has some little tincture remaining of the prejudices instilled into him by Romanzow, which may make him hesitate.—I dined with the Emperor Alexander to-day; and, as I sat by him at dinner, he talked a great deal about his going to England. He did it so seriously, that there must be something in it. He seemed to think that he had been invited by the Prince, in consequence of a letter which he had received from Mr. Grange. If you wish to have him, I do not think there would be any difficulty.

"I hope we have brought the business of the Prince Royal to something like a conclusion. He has not been acting very wisely of late with a view to his own interests. Making the protection of Holland subservient to his immediate objects is sufficiently odious, whatever may be his provocation. Nesselrode is quite furious; and I assure you that you would very much admire my exertions to tranquillize him and Metternich on the subject of the proceedings of the Prince Royal. But, in fact, I see that we have no choice, and must act accordingly. Nesselrode is an excellent person, most zealous in the good cause, but a little alarmed at the symptoms of dissolution. These are less formidable at present than they were lately; but, in your warlike speculations, you will do well to take them into account."

Another note was written on Lord Castlereagh's intention of going to the Continent being known:—

"Lord Aberdeen to Lord Castlereagh.

"Freiburg, January 6, 1814.

"My dear Castlereagh,—As I hope to see you so soon, I shall not enter into the subjects to which I have alluded in my despatch. Although there is much to say, and much that is most important, in a word, with relation to the enemy, our situation is as good as possible—among ourselves it is quite the reverse. Everything which has been so long smothered is now bursting forth. Your presence is absolutely providential. If you come without partiality and prejudice, as I make no doubt you do, in spite of all the pains taken to prevent it, you will be able to perform everything; and no words are sufficient to express the service you will render. I am most anxious that you should come.

"We go to Basle on the 10th. The Austrian quartermaster is already there, and will secure you as good a quarter as can be had.—Ever most sincerely,

"ABERDEEN.

"PS. I have just seen a 'Moniteur,' containing the answer of Bonaparte to the Senate. His speech is most remarkable and pacific throughout. He names the provinces of France by their ancient appellations—Normandy, Picardy, &c. He concludes by talking of the necessity of peace, and adds, 'Il n'est plus question de recouvrer les conquêtes que nous avons faites.'

"Perhaps you have seen this, as well as a long report of M. de Fontanes' to the Senate, also in a very pacific tone; if not, you shall have them when you arrive. Does the naming of the provinces look like royal France? Schwarzenberg, in his letter to Metternich, says it puts him in mind of a speech which Talleyrand made to him before leaving Paris: 'A présent, c'est le moment pour l'Empereur de devenir Roi de France.'"

Later in the same year there is a most characteristic letter from Lord Wellington, expressing his readiness to be at the service of his country:—

"Lord Wellington to Lord Castlereagh.

"Thoulouse, April 21, 1814.

"My dear Lord,—Your brother Charles has just given me your letter of the 13th, and I am very much obliged and flattered by your thinking of me for a situation, for which I should never have thought myself qualified. I hope, however, that

your lordship and the Prince Regent and his Government are convinced that I am ready to serve him in any situation in which it may be thought that I can be of any service. Although I have been so long absent from England, I should have remained as much longer, if it had been necessary, and I feel no objection to another absence in the public service, if it is necessary or desirable.

"In regard to going now to Paris, your brother will inform you of the circumstances here, which would render my absence just now inconvenient and possibly dangerous to the public service. I shall know more, however, of the state of affairs in a day or two; and I will undertake the journey with pleasure, if I should find I can do so without public inconvenience.—Believe me, my dear Lord, ever yours most sincerely, "WELLINGTON."

During the first occupation of Paris by the allies in 1814, Lord Wellington wrote many important letters to the Home Government, part of one of which, addressed to Lord Liverpool, refers to the proposal then made to send him to America:—

"I am quite clear, however, that, if you remove me from hence, it must be to employ me elsewhere. You cannot, in my opinion, at this moment decide upon sending me to America. In case of the occurrence of anything in Europe, there is nobody but myself in whom either yourselves, or the country, or the Allies, would feel any confidence: and yet, for a great length of time, he would have to operate upon a system which would be approved only because he who should carry it on would possess the public confidence.

"If, therefore, you persist in thinking you ought to remove me from hence, you had better avail yourself of the pretence of the court-martial, leaving all my establishments, &c., here, and the period of my absence might easily be drawn on till the period at which you might see whether you could or not send me to America.

"I have already told you and Lord Bathurst that I feel no objection to going to America, though I don't promise to myself much success there. I believe there are troops enough there for the defence of Canada for ever, and even for the accomplishment of any reasonable offensive plan that could be formed from the Canadian frontier. I am quite sure that all the American armies of which I have ever read would not beat out of a field of battle the troops that went from Bordeaux last summer, if common precautions and care were taken of them.

"That which appears to me to be wanting in America is not a general, or general officers and troops, but a naval superiority on the lakes: till that superiority is acquired, it is impossible, according to my notion, to maintain an army in such a situation as to keep the enemy out of the whole frontier, much less to make any conquest from the enemy, which, with those superior means, might, with reasonable hopes of success, be undertaken. I may be wrong in this opinion, but I think the whole history of the war proves its truth; and I suspect that you will find that Prevost will justify his misfortunes (which, by the bye, I am quite certain are not what the Americans have represented them to be) by stating that the navy were defeated; and, even if he had taken Fort Moreau, he must have retired.

"The question is, whether we can obtain this naval superiority on the lakes. If we cannot, I shall do you but little good in America, and I shall go there only to prove the truth of Prevost's defence, and to sign a peace which might as well be signed now. There will always, however, remain this advantage, that the confidence which I have acquired will reconcile both the army and people in England to terms of which they would not now approve.

"In regard to your present negotiations, I confess that I think you have no right, from the state of the war, to demand any concession of territory from America. Considering every thing, it is my opinion that the war has been a most successful one, and highly honourable to the British arms;

but, from particular circumstances, such as the want of naval superiority on the lakes, you have not been able to carry it into the enemy's territory, notwithstanding your military success and now undoubted military superiority, and have not even cleared your own territory of the enemy on the point of attack. You cannot, on any principle of equality in negotiation, claim a cession of territory, excepting in exchange for other advantages which you have in your power."

A number of Wellington's letters at this period refer to the question of the slave trade, and it is gratifying to find how large a share of attention was given to this subject, even amidst the important affairs which demanded the care of public men:—

"The Duke of Wellington to Lord Liverpool.

"Paris, September 12, 1814.

"My dear Lord,—I have received your letter of the 7th, regarding a cession of some kind or other, in order to obtain the immediate abolition of the Slave Trade. I have inquired upon the subject, and have not found any such idea here, and so I told Mr. Clarkson yesterday; but as I find Talleyrand's name mentioned, I will see him to-night, and will talk to him on the subject.

"I did not tell Mr. Clarkson that it was a question of national vanity. It is one of profit; and those interested in carrying on the trade, who are the only persons who have any information on the subject, with very few exceptions, operate upon the national vanity by representing the question not only as one purely English, but as one of English profit and monopoly.

"Money might do a great deal with this class of people, certainly more than the Island of Trinidad; and I concur entirely in opinion with your Lordship, on the impolicy of offering to make any territorial cession, with a view to obtain this object, which you should not be quite sure would be accepted.

Ever, &c. "WELLINGTON."

In the book on 'Napoleon in Exile,' by Surgeon Barry O'Meara, there are some remarkable notices of conversations at St. Helena about Lord Castlereagh. On one occasion Napoleon is reported thus to have spoken:—

"At Chatillon, with the ambassadors of the Allied Powers, after some successes of mine, and when I had in a manner invested the town, he (Lord C.) was greatly alarmed lest I might seize and make him a prisoner; as not being accredited as an ambassador, nor invested with any diplomatic character to France, I might have taken him as an enemy. He went to Caulaincourt, to whom he mentioned that he laboured under considerable apprehensions that I should cause violent hands to be laid upon him, as he acknowledged I had a right to do. It was impossible for him to get away without falling in with my troops. Caulaincourt replied, that as far as his own opinion went, he would say that I would not meddle with him, but that he could not answer for what I would do. Immediately after, Caulaincourt wrote to me what Castlereagh had said, and his own answer. I signified to him in reply, that he was to tell Lord Castlereagh to make his mind easy and stay where he was, that I would consider him as an ambassador. At Chatillon, continued he (Napoleon), when speaking about the liberty enjoyed in England, Castlereagh observed, in a contemptuous manner, that it was not the thing most to be esteemed in your country, that it was an *usage* which they were obliged to put up with; but had become an abuse, and would not answer for other countries."

Of these conferences at Chatillon a full account is given in an appendix to the first volume, the present editor having acted as reporter at the meetings, taking down at the time the conversations, and having been complimented for the fulness and accuracy of the minutes of the proceedings. From the letters of Lord Castlereagh in the second volume,

we give part of one, to Canning, announcing the victory of Waterloo, and the whole of another, to Lord Liverpool, in which Fouché's character is described:—

"Lord Castlereagh to the Right Hon. G. Canning, Foreign Office, June 22, 1815.

"My dear Sir,—I regret that you should personally have any drawback to the triumphant news the packet will convey to you. The astonishing, even by himself the unexampled, exertions made by the Duke in this greatest of all his battles, necessarily led to an extraordinary exposure of his own person, and consequently of his Staff; to this is to be attributed the fall both of Lieutenant-Colonel Canning and Sir A. Gordon; Lord Fitzroy [Somerset] lost only an arm; but none around him, I believe, escaped some injury. The Duke's sword was struck, but his person, as usual, seemed invulnerable.

"We have just heard by telegraph that 5,000 prisoners had reached Ostend. The French cavalry have suffered enormous losses, as have their artillery. They could ill afford this sacrifice, by draining everything from inland, and replacing them with militia. We hope to reinforce the Duke with nearly 10,000 men now, and nearly as many more when the troops from Canada arrive.

"Lord Castlereagh to Lord Liverpool.

"Paris, August 3, 1815.

"Dear Liverpool,—Labedoyère was taken last night, in Paris, and a military Council is ordered to try him. Fouché, I understand, is horribly unpopular in England: I don't wonder at it, as far as the mass are concerned; but those who know how impossible it is to find men of character in France who can be employed, ought to be very cautious about encouraging this clamour. I am always abusing him for not executing with more vigour his own decrees: and yet I doubt whether the king could do without this man. The Duc Dalberg, who knows France well, and is an entire creature of Talleyrand's, but with sense enough to judge for himself, told my brother, yesterday, he was convinced that, if Fouché was removed, Talleyrand could not go on; and that such he knew to be the general impression of his colleagues.

"I mention this, because I have reason to believe that Blacas is working to create in England a different impression; and there is also a movement amongst the pure Royalists in France against the Government, to which, perhaps insensibly, the Duke and Duchess d'Angoulême give a countenance; but this is, I am confident, a most hazardous resource for the King to look to; and, whatever may be the repugnance felt to the individuals now in power, I hope the King will not be induced to risk a departure from the system upon which he has declared his determination to act.

"Whilst I argue against playing tricks with Fouché, in the present state of France, I must give you a short correspondence, which Talleyrand assured me had passed between him and Carnot, who was his colleague, and is now in his proscribed list No. 2. Carnot (who, by the by, is but a foolish mathematician), being required by the decree to place himself under Fouché's *surveillance* till the Assemblies shall pronounce further upon his case, addressed to him this short epistle:—'*Traître, où veux-tu que j'aille?* (Signé) CARNOT.' To which he received a reply as follows:—'*Où tu voudras imbécille.* (Signé) FOUCHÉ.'

"The ordonnance for disbanding the army will appear in a day or two. The Duke of Wellington has assisted the Government very much in its details; and I hope the best will be made of bad materials. The Government has not yet heard from Marshal Macdonald.

"I am, dear Liverpool, ever yours,

"CASTLEREAGH."

We had marked various letters for extract, but the important political events with which they are connected would require more discussion or explanation than our space will admit. From the miscellaneous correspond-

ence in the concluding volumes we select two passages, the first of which relates to the distribution of the works of art at Paris, in 1815. Lord Castlereagh was always a supporter of Roman Catholic claims and privileges, but the tone in which he here speaks of the Holy Father, the Pope, is amusingly irreverent:—

"Lord Castlereagh to Lord Liverpool.

"Paris, September 11, 1815.

"My dear Lord—In addition to what I have stated in my despatch and note on the subject of the works in the Louvre, I think it right to mention that Mr. Hamilton, who is intimate with Canova, the celebrated artist, expressly sent here by the Pope, with a letter to the King, to reclaim what was taken from Rome, distinctly ascertained from him that the Pope, if successful, neither could nor would, as Pope, sell any of the *chefs-d'œuvre* that belonged to the See, and in which he has, in fact, only a life interest.

"The French, when they plundered the Vatican, ignorantly brought away some works of little or no value. These Canova has authority either to cede to the King, or to sell to facilitate the return of the more valuable objects; but it is quite clear that no sum of money could secure to the Prince Regent any of the distinguished works from his Holiness's collection. The other claimants would be still less likely to sell. In taking, therefore, the disinterested line, we have, in fact, made no real sacrifice, whilst we shall escape odium and misrepresentation; and if, through the weight of the Prince Regent's interference, the Pope should ultimately recover his property, his Royal Highness would probably feel it more consistent with his munificence to give this old man a small sum out of the French contribution, to carry home his gallery, than to see him exposed to the reproach of selling the refuse, without any strict right to do so, in order to replace what is really valuable in the Vatican."

Our last extract is from a letter of the American President, Jefferson, to Madame de Staël. The first part of the letter gives a detailed account of the political state of Spanish America in 1816. It concludes thus:—

"The only comfortable prospect which this clouded horizon offers is, that these revolutionary movements having excited into exercise that common sense which nature has implanted in every one, it will go on advancing towards the lights of cultivated reason, will become sensible of its own powers, and in time be able to form some canons of freedom, and to restrain their leaders to an observance of them. In the meantime, we must pray to God, as most heartily we do for your country, that 'He will be pleased to give them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.'

"Your resolution not to revisit your own country, while under foreign force, is worthy of you. No patriotism requires us to incur the pain of witnessing the miseries which we cannot remedy or alleviate, and towards which, even in absence, your pen may do more than your presence. That such a country and such a people can never be kept permanently prostrate on the earth is a decree of Heaven, which will not pass away. Our great anxiety is, lest they should lengthen their sufferings by premature and abortive attempts to end them, and our wish that they may have patience yet awhile, until dissensions among their enemies may give them a choice of friends. In general it is sinful, but now pious, to pray for war and strife among nations, as the only means of dissolving their criminal combinations.

"I congratulate you on the happy union of your daughter with a peer and patriot of France; and, should your son realize the hope you hold up to us of visiting this sanctuary of the unfortunate of every country, where 'the wolf dwells with the lamb, and the leopard with the kid,' he will be hailed as the son of Madame de Staël and grandson of M. Necker, and will see an example, in the peaceable reunion here of so many discordant

worthies of his own country, how much more happy the tolerant principles of his great ancestor might have made them at home.

"Permit me here to renew the assurances of my high consideration and esteem.

"THOMAS JEFFERSON."

It only remains for us to speak of the manner in which Lord Londonderry has performed the part of editor. We have already quoted his explanation of the motives which led him to publish so much of the correspondence, although conscious that part of it was not of great permanent or public importance. Certainly much might have been omitted without injuring the historical value of the papers. A judicious selection from the twelve volumes would be an acceptable work. As now printed no sane man would undertake to read the whole volumes straight through, except he were a prisoner and confined to one book, like Kossuth with his 'Shakspeare.' But although not very attractive to the general reader, the 'Castlereagh Papers' will be found along with the 'Wellington Despatches' in every good library, a work valuable for political study and necessary for historical reference.

The Plaint of Freedom. Newcastle: Richardson.

Thomas à Becket, and other Poems. By Patrick Scott. Longman & Co.

Rosaline's Dream, and other Poems. By John Nevay. With Introductory Essay, by George Gilfillan. Edinburgh: Hogg.

The Holiday, and other Poems. Pickering.

The Patriot: a Poem. By J. W. King, Author of 'The Emigrant,' &c. John Chapman.

The City of Gems: a Poem. George Bell.

Musings of a Spirit. By George Marsland, Author of 'Regeneration.' Pickering.

Poems and Lyrics. By Stephen Nolan

Elrlington, jun. Dublin: McGlashan.

Cwm Dhu; or, the Black Dingle: Winder-

mere: and other Poems. By Themis.

Elflingham Wilson.

A Broken Echo: a Poem. Pickering.

We this week give audience to a large company of poets. Most of them are strangers, though some have been already known to us and to the public. We are puzzled to understand the cause of this nearly simultaneous outburst of song. The return of Spring is said to make all nature vocal and tuneful; but though these books are published now, they must have been chiefly prepared during the dreariness of winter. Periodical showers of rhyme seem to depend on certain conditions of the literary atmosphere with which we are unacquainted. Sometimes many a week elapses without the agreeable variety of a single book in metre, amidst the multitudes that come under our review. We have at times almost been inclined to believe that there was truth in the remark, that the railway whistle had scared away the Muse of song from our island. We are happy to find that, so far as the number of its cultivators is concerned, 'the age of poetry' is not yet gone. Though no master of song has lately arisen, there is much of the old poetic fire and fervour still extant and operative, as passages in some of the volumes before us sufficiently testify. Very unequal are the poems which in one notice we now bring together; but our extracts, though few and brief, will indicate something of their several characters, and our estimate of their relative merits.

The first on the list, 'The Plaint of Freedom,' is published anonymously, and in a style of unusual outward magnificence. The poetry is better than we were led to anticipate from its splendid typography, and the artificial attractions of rubric and vellum. The inscription of the poem is 'To the Memory of Milton,' and the author's design is to give a sketch of the leading events in English history bearing on the progress of liberty. His political ideas are somewhat vague, and only a poet could ever say that the present times are not every way better than any that have preceded them. We have many things to mourn over and to complain of, but there is not much just cause for a "plaint of freedom." After all, the author's appeals are more to the spirit of Patriotism than to that of Liberty, and hence the incongruity of his subject is less remarkable.

"The watchman sleepeth, and the fire
Of Freedom dwindles at his side,—
The beacon, in old days espied,
By farthest lands, will soon expire.

"He sleeps as life was all forgot,
And lower, lower sinks the flame;
And war-cries of his youthful fame
Peal in his dreams, but stir him not.

"He sleeps, though nations shout his name;
The sea-winds, gathering far and near,
Shriek vainly in his drowsy ear;
And lower, lower sinks the flame.

"The storm is hush'd a breathing-space,
And Freedom's question cleaves the gale:
Ho, Saxon England! canst thou fail?
Shall younger warriors take thy place?

"Of old my name had been a spell
To rouse thee from profoundest trance:
The shadow of a winged lance
Had warn'd thy slumber, ere it fell.

"Then blazed upon thy haughtiest cliffs
My fires, reflected in the tide
Which gulf'd the Armada's lofty pride,—
Scatter'd before our English shifts.

"Yet higher soar'd the flame divine,
Whose rays illumined distant lands,
When Milton utter'd my commands,
And Cromwell set his foot by mine.

"But now no beacon marks thy shore;
The old undaunted soul is fled:
White Land! canst thou be pale with dread
That Freedom needeth thee once more?

"Why tarriest thou? Till stinging of pain
Excite thy tamed Berserker rage;
Or till our foe cast down a gage
Not even thy strength can lift again?

"What waitest thou? Till Cossack feet
Spur thy slow courage; till the war—
Our sires had led to Trafalgar—
Back desperately from street to street?

"Till London croucheth to its doom;
When strangers, stepping through our walls,
Chant French Te-Deums in Saint Paul's,
And pile their arms on Nelson's tomb?

"What sloth of heart, or brain, or limb,
What count of fears, what doubt of Right,
Hath hid thy spirit in this night,
Whose clouds thy starriest honour dim?

"Can Wickliffe's heirs permit the Pope?
May Cromwell's lieges court the Tsar?
Or Alfred's lineage shrink from war,
With shameful peace for only hope?

"And yet, thy sword a liar's tongue,
Thy highest faith some trick of trade,—
What marvel England's name is made
A synonym for Coward Wrong?

"The land that boldly judged a king,
And slew the traitor for his crimes,
Now stoopeth to the poorest mimes
Of Tyranny,—an abject thing."

We should like to have seen our author reading the account of the presentation of the address of 'the merchants of London' to Louis Napoleon the other day! We give but one specimen of the historical sketches, headed—

"MAGNA-CHARTA.

"Gleams back on glorious summer morn
From spear and shield the flashing light,
Where Thames' fair bank is fringed with might
Of barons English bred and born.

"God's Army!—for the Right combined:
What king or pope shall break their wreath,
Or bid the sword renege its sheath
Till our Great Charter hath been sign'd?"

"Now shout ye merrily through the land!
For all that perjured monarchs doubt,
The Charter yet shall widen out
Till Free and Bond have set their hand.
"Shout merrily, England! Freedom's seed,—
Whose growth our Hampden's blood bedew'd,
Whose promised harvest Milton view'd,—
Took root that day on Runnymede."

Plain but powerful thoughts are uttered in the Tennysonian metres of this patriot-poet.

Our second author is Mr. Patrick Scott, who comes out with a formal tragedy, 'Thomas à Becket,' of which we can at least say that it gives a fair historical account of the spirit of the time of that worthy saint. We cannot say much for the author's dramatic skill; but the speeches of Thomas à Becket are good expressions of his character as a selfish and haughty prelate. The following are the best passages in the poem. Becket is about to start from Boulogne to England:—

"Dean. Holy Sir!
I am the Priest of the poor Church of Boulogne.
My lord the Count hath sent me to restrain
This perilous voyage, that the needy earth
Lose not so great a saint.
"Becket. 'Twill have a greater,
If what thou fear'st be ratified.
"Grim. My Lord!
If not for thine, yet for the sake—
"Becket. Enough!
Time dies in talking. Think ye not I know
All ye would urge?—the excellent good reasons
For wise delay—a cause in danger calling
For caution to— Great Heav'n! I'm sick of caution;
I'm sick to death. Nought stays me but the arm
Of Him who strove with Israel. Hear me, sirs;
Who am I? England's Primate? Where am I?
Whose is my livery, that a tinsel Prince,
Whom the hour raises or casts down, shall say
'Thus, and no further shalt thou go'—to me,
Whose breath can blight the hearts and hopes of all,
Who sleep hard-couch'd in some uneasy nook,
Or curtain'd round with crimson! Shall it be
That coming men shall read th' historic sneer,
How Becket shook when Henry threaten'd him?
'Twould stir the dry bones in my grave! Good Father,
Thanks to thy master. We are bound for England.
I have had letters from our Lord the Pope.
There's lightning in them; shall I fear, or he,
When those chain'd curses, fork'd with fire, are loos'd,
And hurl'd at the prelatial head of York?
Come, sirs, away! We wait no weather now.
No wind blows contrary to a great resolve.
Where's John of Salisbury?"

Of the Church of Rome, its power and its policy, the following account is given:—

"Becket. Rome's policy
Makes of the world, and all that therein is,
A handle for its ends; the minds of men;
Their various hearts; their shifting vice and virtue;
All, all, are used by that great architect,
And, shaped to purpose, do conspire to make
One master-building. Why complain? I ask,
Do men withhold their reasoning lips from wine
When the rich draught is cupp'd in base alloy?
Or must the appetite be slaked from gold?
If Heav'n hold forth a blessing to the world,
Should the world grasp it not, because the gift
Be somewhat soil'd in indirect transmission,
Touch'd by the intermediate palm of man?
Work'd in Heaven's hands, the ill of Rome becomes
Attempter'd unto good, and lends itself
To the upheaving of that glorious fabric
Whose barrier-walls shut out the Pagan flood,
And bleaker wilderness of unbelief!"

Among the minor poems there are some good pieces; but no poet can attain to eminence who has so little ear for music as to allow verses to pass so tame as these in 'The Rifleman's Song':—

"Arm for your rights, and you
Then will be strong;
They are the feeble who
Strike for the wrong.
England, your mother, stirs
Chafed in her might—
Up! then, ye sons of hers,
Arm for the right!
"Stand for your homes! and be
Firm as your shore,
When on its bounds the sea
Idly doth roar.
As the waves rear their crests,
When the war foams,
Yours be the barrier-breasts—
Stand for your homes!"

To end the lines with feeble words, like those we have marked with Italics, indicates

a lack of taste and tact fatal to poetic success. The spirit and the subject of the tragedy of 'Thomas à Becket' will make it popular with many readers, and as a historical sketch it deserves attention.

Next comes Mr. John Nevay, a Caledonian minstrel, whom Mr. George Gilfillan introduces to public notice in a preface, which is the best part of the volume. Mr. Gilfillan gives a sketch of the principal bards of Scotland, chiefly those of unclassical and uncultured genius, as Tannahill, Macdiarmid, George Beattie, John Wright, Robert Gilfillan, David Vedder, and others, the fame of few of whom has reached across the Tweed. John Nevay, it seems, is a working man, of the unpoetic craft of a weaver, but "animated by genuine enthusiasm for his art, and by profound love for the beauties of nature." Best of all, he is a moral and religious poet, which we are sorry to say is not a usual quality of Scottish bards. Mr. Gilfillan adds, that "John Nevay is now an old man, but his love for nature and poetry is as strong as ever. It has for years been his thought by day and his dream by night, to publish a complete edition of his poems." This cherished desire is now accomplished, and we echo the generous wish expressed at the close of the preface, that the volume may meet with success, "out of respect for the genius, the simple-heartedness, and the amiable character of its author." Many years ago Professor Wilson, in one of his papers in 'Blackwood's Magazine,' honourably mentioned John Nevay's name, and quoted one of his poems. From 'Rosaline's Dream' we give four stanzas. She is wafted in a dream, in company with the Genius of Song, to scenes thus described:—

"And we alighted on a summer land,
Romantic land of mountain, wood, and stream;
And there were gorgeous moors of pearly sand,
Bright red with heather-bells; sweet with the theme
Of bees, that never know the fell extreme
Of being victims to voluptuous snare!
It is a land such as the bard might dream
When maid inspires his song, with rural Pan
To bless the smiling flocks, the mutual fawn to fan.
"A land such as the patriarch hopes to be
His home of rest and happiness for aye;
His dream of bliss. The cottage and old tree,
The lark above, all nature fair and gay;
The pebbly burn making its dulcet way,
Fast by 'mid home-flowers of the meadow sod;
The Holy Volume, and the Sabbath-day;
His humble worship of a gracious God,
Who blest, and taught his soul to find the heavenly road.
"Its every scene to wonder my soul charmed!
In each was something grand I may not name:
Yet 'twas so like fair Scotland, my heart warmed
With glow of childhood's joy at moonlight game!
But still the sky breathed a diviner flame;
The fields bloomed fairer; brighter faces smiled,
Sweet greeting us; and many a matron came,
And called me Rosaline! with voice so mild,
Withal so homely, that my thought was reconciled
"That I was in the land of Scotland's saints,
The spirits smiled, they knew my joyous feeling!
Certain, I looked like that which artist paints
When he portrays astonishment, revealing
Sublimest thoughts of mind: I felt a thrilling,
Like memory musing on familiar faces.
It was a blessed land! with many a shieling,
All in the gracious light of Love, which graces
The happy people, and their home of pleasant places."

The poetry is very unequal, but in the three hundred pages of which the volume consists there are many passages worthy of preservation. The following sonnets in their tenderness of feeling remind us of Cowper's lines on a similar subject:—

"My Mother! yet, though half a century,
Chequered with joy and sorrow, good and ill,
Hath lapsed, since thou, God-chosen, wast by his will
To bliss transposed, yet I remember thee!
Thy smile—now sunlit to my memory—
That was of love, and grace, and sympathy,
A Mayday mildness, I behold it still!
Thy voice, more sweet than the lark's warbled skill

In heaven, now speaks heart-melody to me!
Ah! now, methinks, thy fair and gentle hand
Is on my head, sitting beneath the tree;
And I again in sunny infancy
Among the flowers, listening thy counsel bland,
And all around is balm, and bright, and grand."

"She was a Christian mother; so sincere,
So true, a solemn cheerfulness of heart
Was ever hers; unknown to wile or art;
Was wise to teach; most kind, and yet severe;
Her grace the light of the domestic sphere:
And what, and when, was proper to impart
She knew full well; while prudence was the char
Of her calm life, which was a Sabbath-year;
For piety was the clear atmosphere
Of her delighted mind—yet she of this
Unconscious seemed; while nought to her so dear
As worshipping of God—it was her bliss:
How sweet, how solemn was her worship given,
It spoke the peace of earth, the joy of heaven."

The next author is also Scotch, or at least writes partly in the Scottish dialect, but we do not find much to notice in his rhymes. The 'Holiday' is a descriptive and meditative piece, in couplets, after the following strain:—

"Thy groves, Argyle, and all thy green domains,
Thy heathy mountains and thy flowery plains,
Command the Muse's praise; but how shall I—
Unskill'd in song—the rural numbers try?
Through green arcades of clust'ring foliage rove,
And sing the beauties of the sylvan grove?
"Twas in these groves I pass'd my early days,
Those leafy bowers first heard my rural lays;
When through their dreamy solitudes I roved,
And held communion with the lips I loved.
"Those days are fled, but still with memory's ear,
The warbling birds and rippling streams I hear;
While o'er my head the arching branches meet,
And flowers unnumber'd bloom about my feet."

Two or three of the songs are tolerable, as that beginning—

"My dad wad hae me wed the laird,
And be a leddy braw;
But wha could kiss his auld gray beard
As white and cauld as snaw."

In other songs the indecency of the old Scottish lyrics is imitated, without their wit or their genius.

The author of 'The Patriot' favours us with a long preliminary disquisition on 'poets and poetry,' the chief burden of which is that "this is an age of poetry," in spite of opinions to the contrary. "Without poetry," says Mr. King, "existence would be chaos. The world would be stripped of its beauty and its humanity; there would be no love, no hope, no joy, no faith." The dedicatory lines, 'to Joseph Mazzini,' will suffice to give idea of the author's spirit, and of the form of his verse:—

"TO MAZZINI.
"Rome's noble patriot and the wide world's friend,
To thy great name I dedicate this song—
Not to add greatness to one great so long,
Nor win the public ear by arts that lend
Unworthiness to fame; but to append
My humble offering to the tribute-roll
Enshrined on freedom's altar, for the love
Of that great cause thou didst defend
With might of arm and eloquence of soul,
And for thy pure devotion, then and now,
With all thy country's wrongs upon thy brow.
God bless and prosper thee, till that great day
Shall dawn that ushers in, for evermore,
The enfranchisement of man, and thou canst say
Truth reigns in Italy, and peace on every shore."

The poem of 'The City of Gems' is an allegorical description of the Christian church in its celestial state. With some oddly exclusive ecclesiastical ideas, there are at the same time good thoughts expressed in smooth verse, such as in the following stanzas, which are the best in the poem:—

"The pearls were those pure maids, who serv'd their Lord
In cloister, and in chapel, and in cell,
Whose work was oft to beautify His word
With holy blazonry, and who full well
With fingers chaste could curious limnings frame
Of holy women, who were dedicate
To heaven, and put all lighter minds to shame
By lowliness of life, and thought sedate;
Who fed the hungry soul, and cloth'd the poor,
Thus in heaven laying up an everlasting store.
"The Jasper stone expresseth those honest minds,
Who earn'd their bread by diligence and toil,
Labouring in fields of earth, who rugged hands
Were oft esteem'd, fit but to turn the soil;

But they by manly industry and pains
Their station's duty had enacted quite;
Though little were their knowledge and their gains
In worldly wisdom, here they glister'd bright,
For they with willing hearts all that they knew
Had done to honour God, like servants good and true.

"And yet this city fair and beautiful
Was but a type of a more heavenly place;
And those sun-rays, wherewith these stones were full,
At best a figure of a Saviour's grace
For ever resting on His chosen few,
Who followed Him on earth, and bore His cross
From day to day, with loyal hearts and true,
Counting earth's hopes for His dear sake but loss;
Who e'en on earth as stars were made to shine,
And by their light declar'd their origin divine."

The 'Musings of a Spirit,' by George Marsland, are very just and true generally in sentiment, but somewhat heavy and unimaginative. It is only in the hands of a few master-spirits that moral reflections in verse convey pleasure as well as instruction. The following is a very favourable specimen of Mr. Marsland's musings:—

"Tho' all things seem to move by natural law,
They are but shadows of the spiritual,
And he who can interpret their portent,
Attains the highest place to man assigned.
How few there are who can in truth allege
A single aim and purpose in their life;
That they an object set before them first,
And ever kept in view, regarding all
Inferior things as merely episodes,
The tributary streams to their design!
Such in all ages have been greatest men,
For they alone accomplish a great end.
A mind heroic, firm, and undismayed,
With discipline so greatly exercised,
That neither pain nor pleasure—fame—disgrace—
Will move the mind reliant's firm resolve;
All circumstance—time—place—attend his march,
And bind his passions captive to the wheels:
To such a will all nature will bow down,
And own the conquering spirit of a man."

An Irish minstrel comes next, Mr. Elrington, whose lyre is tuned to the tones of Tom Moore's melodies, but there is little either of the firmness or the tenderness of touch with which that great lyrist charmed the world. Mr. Elrington tells his readers that his effusions are far more those of the heart than of the head, and that, not writing for fame, he has bestowed little literary labour on his compositions. This confession is more honest than judicious. An author ought to use his head to correct and improve even those writings which are most directly the utterances of the heart, and it will be found that the poets whose works have the appearance of being the most artless and natural, have spent the most time and labour in finishing their poems. Most of Mr. Elrington's pieces have appeared in periodical literature, and a few of them are familiarly known from being set to the music of popular melodies; but as his poems are now collected in one volume, published "at the solicitation of friends" belonging to the 'Goldsmith Club,' we give what we consider an average specimen of the style and spirit of the poetry:—

"THE BROKEN VASE."

"Tho' the blossom of beauty, by man's cruel hand,
Was crushed when expanding to gladden the eye,
And dishonoured it sunk on the withering land,
Its spirit ascended to brighten the sky;
And thus, tho' the vase may a ruin be made,
Its odours ascend on the Zephyr's sweet breath,
Still floating above where its roses are laid,
Like lingering smiles on the features of death!
"Beautiful relic, thy flowers are all crushed,
Like the soul-breathing hopes of a fond lover's mind,
And the voice of the bee round thy blossoms is hushed,
For thy sweets have been wafted away on the wind.
No more will the butterfly pillow its wing
On their bosoms when faint in the blaze of the day,
No more will the bird round them joyfully sing,
Or fan their warm leaves with the breath of his lay.
"The world is a vase that contains many flowers,
Alternately blooming and fading away,
Unrefreshed, unrevived, by the sun's genial showers,
When the buds of the meadow and garden look gay.
And the world, like the vase, will be broken beneath
The chariot of God when his thunders arise,
And our souls like the perfume of roses will breathe
More purely when borne from the earth to the skies."

The most ambitious, and perhaps most successful, of Mr. Elrington's works is his 'Ode to Shakspeare,' which was honoured by a special prize from the Dublin Oratorical and Literary Society. The allusions to many of the poet's scenes and characters are happily introduced. The ode closes with these lines:—

"Hail! bright, imperishable, glorious name,
Wreathed with fresh laurels each succeeding year;
Synonymous with nature, life, and fame,
Which this and distant ages must revere;
The tongue of nature; the interpreter
Of all her passions, principles, and ways,
Which, mute, still speaks, like truth that cannot err,
The organ of all manners, times, and days;
The intellectual, deathless evergreen;
The immortality of life and time;
Voiceless, yet heard, invisible, yet seen,
Impassioned, thrilling, eloquent, sublime,
The rainbow of the universal mind,
Beheld, and praised by each admiring eye;
Obscured, it may be, but again we find
That sacred arch expanding o'er the sky,
With brighter, deeper hues, to testify
That till the world shall fall it cannot die."

The author of 'Cwm Dhu' has not done wisely in making his first public appearance with a title to his work which must be *caviare* to the multitude. The scanning of the first word may be guessed from its use in the first stanza of canto i., which, with another, we quote to show the metre of the poem. It is a dolefully tragic tale, though it opens with almost burlesque simplicity:—

"Whoe'er through Tanat's vale has strayed,
Has marked, perchance, the sombre hue
Of Nature's garb in Cwm Dhu;
Or tempted by its grateful shade,
Has sought at noon some darker glade
Within that deep and lonely dell,
Whereon the sun's bright beams ne'er fell,
Or straggling fitfully in mazes played."

"There lived, nor yet remote the day,
The yeoman JONES; his honest name,
Though dear to Wales, unknown to fame,
Nor suited to the poet's lay:
Yet would the Muse her tribute pay
To sterling worth where'er it found,
Nor leave a gentle spirit bound,
To dumb forgetfulness permitted prey."

There is much quiet humour throughout the whole volume, and the light playful pieces please us more than the formal poems of larger pretensions.

The fables, such as that of 'The Church and the Windmill,' and the domestic and pastoral eclogues, are very ably written. Of the sonnets we give one specimen:—

"TO DAVID WILKIE."

"How truly to the life dost thou portray,
Thou matchless limner, each domestic scene!
Whether by clemis's ruddy fire at e'en
The Village Politicians close the day;
Or the Blind Fiddler scrap his drowsy lay;
Or Chelsea Pensioners with gleeful peruse
Of hard-fought Waterloo the stirring news;
Or honest farmers meet, their Rent to pay;
Or frolickers at Blindman's Buff to play;
Or anxious Legatese the will to read;
Or his Cut Finger whistling urchin rue;
Or hind his Rabbit on the wall display;
To thee will genuine taste award the meed
Of cultivated art to nature true."

The writer need not be ashamed to publish his name with any future poems. Let him choose good subjects, and take more pains in finishing his pieces, omitting whatever to himself appears doubtful or weak, and his writings will be worthy of attention. The Australian Pastorals are happily conceived; and as to the language used by the speakers, it is explained by the author that men of good birth and education are often found as shepherds in the bush and on the plains of Australia. Tityrus and Corydon at the antipodes hold dialogue in strains like these:—

"Tityrus. 'Twas poverty that drove me from my home,
My frugal state unable to maintain;
No willing exile, but compelled to roam,
And seek my fortune o'er the restless main.
Free trade and taxes, Corydon, make England poor:
To these my weary banishment I owe:
These brought the ravening wolf within my door,
And from my mortgaged homestead bade me go."

Then follow sweet reminiscences of home and of old England, to which Corydon replies by praising the land of their adoption, and thus encourages his companion:—

"Corydon. Another world demands another mind;
A dauntless spirit suits an exile's state;
Nor should the olden ties of country bind
The banished victim of relentless fate.
Shake off that longing for thy native soil,
Her children's love unworthy to retain;
Where purse-proud wealth but mocks at patient toil,
And nought is fostered save commercial gain:
More dear to me the freedom of the bush,
Its calm repose, and peaceful solitude,
Than father lands, where honesty must blush
For woman's broken faith, and man's ingratitude."

The poem entitled 'A Broken Echo' is by an admirer and imitator of the 'Childe Harold' of Byron. In description the author does not so much excel as in his reflective strains, which are superior, and his verse rich and smooth, as may be seen in the following stanzas on some Druidical remains:—

"I love beneath the pale moonlight to climb
To where those monumental records stand,
Piled by the skill of dark primeval time,
When superstition scowled along the land,
And all religion was a deed of crime;
While human blood ran red 'neath human hand,
To gods before whose shrine the Briton rude
Bent low his head—in this wild solitude!"

"The heavens are clear, and o'er the circle thrown
The mellowing radiance; o'er the gentle mound,
In ghostly form, each gray mysterious stone
Casts its weird shadow on the sacred ground;
The spot long revered, now is still and lone,
And by the wasted circle's magic round
The night winds mock and whistle idly by,
Its aspect of most desert majesty."

"Ye cold gray brethren,—seated 'mid the waste
Where ye have sat in silence whilst the seal
Of pregnant ages, on your aspect traced,
Hath pressed and left ye powerless to reveal
One awful syllable, thus grandly based,
Insensible to all this world can feel
Of change, of bliss, of woe,—strong types are ye,
Of contemplation wrapt in Deity!"

"The awful pomp, the muttered Runic chant,
The gory rite to Woden or to Thor,
The human victims' agonizing pant,
The words of Hell that shuddering breezes bore,
Are whispered in tradition's dubious grant;
While ye who saw these pagan deeds of yore
Gaze calmly on a christian land from hence,
With the intemperance of mute eloquence."

We have still several volumes of recent poetry to notice, and will give audience shortly to another company of lyrist.

The Plant: a Biography. In a Series of Popular Lectures. By M. J. Schleiden, M.D., Professor of Botany to the University of Jena. Translated by Arthur Henfrey, F.L.S., &c. Second Edition. Baillière, 1853.

The Earth, Plants, and Man. Popular Lectures of Nature. By Joachim Frederic Schouw, Professor of Botany in the University of Copenhagen; and *Sketches from the Mineral Kingdom.* By Francis von Kobell. Translated and edited by Arthur Henfrey, F.R.S., F.L.S. Bohn, 1852.

THE appearance of Humboldt's 'Cosmos' will always be considered a remarkable event in the history of both science and literature. Humboldt, by bringing forward subjects of abstruse science in a popular garb, showed that the results of physical science need not be expressed in dry technicalities or in philosophical formulae in order to be appreciated, but that they rather gained than lost by being described in language intelligible to all, and with as much artistic effect as possible. The experiment which Humboldt made was a bold one; but, like many other bold measures, it was attended with success. Not only in this country, but in Germany, in Denmark, and in other continental States, the example was eagerly imitated. The general public appreciated these productions, and thus we had

suddenly a new kind of writing—a popular style introduced into physical science. One of the most successful imitators of Humboldt's style was Professor Schleiden; and much as his colleagues have reason to complain of the coarse and undignified manner in which he has criticized their labours and ridiculed their opinions, he deserves the thanks of all botanists for the great ability and zeal he has shown in advocating their cause. 'The Plant: a Biography,' a work which has been translated into several languages, and of which a second edition has just appeared in this country, may be looked upon as an able protest against the subordinate rank which has unhappily too generally, and perhaps not quite undeservedly, been assigned to botany.

"My chief aim," says Professor Schleiden, "was, in fact, the satisfaction of what may be called a class-vanity. A large proportion of the uninitiated, even among the educated classes, are still in the habit of regarding the botanist as a dealer in barbarous Latin names, a man who plucks flowers, names them, dries and wraps them up in paper, and whose whole wisdom is expended in the determination and classification of this ingeniously collected hay. This portrait of the botanist was, alas! once true, but it pains me to observe, that now, when it bears a resemblance to so few, it is still held fast to by very many persons; and I have sought, therefore, in the present discourses, to bring within the sphere of general comprehension the more important problems of the real science of botany, to point out how closely it is connected with almost all the most abstruse branches of philosophy and natural science, and to show how almost every fact or larger group of facts tends, as well in botany as in every other branch of human activity, to suggest the most earnest and weighty questions, and to carry mankind forward beyond the possessions of sense, to the anticipations of the spirit. If, through my efforts, the reader of these sketches shall hereafter hold a worthier opinion of botany, and the phytologist shall form a more accurate conception of the compass and objects of our science, I shall be content."

Both the works placed at the head of this notice originated in the lecture-room, and consist of a series of popular addresses. Schleiden's book has already been noticed by us on its first appearance in its English dress, and we may content ourselves with remarking that this second edition has been translated from the third German one, and has been augmented by several illustrations and two additional lectures—one on 'The Water and its Movements,' and one on 'The Sea and its Inhabitants.' As a specimen of the former we select the following passage:—

"We speak of the ocean as a surface, and to the first passing glance it appears like a motionless, calm expanse. But an attentive ear detects the soft murmur of the waves rolling in to the foot of the cliffs, and an observant eye at length discovers that the whole infinite surface rises and sinks as if with a gentle respiration. The sailors call this a 'ground swell.'"

"It is but apparent calm that here deceives us; it is no lifeless, motionless mass, but ever moving, restlessly changing, living water, which, like Oceanus of old, winds its embracing arms around the solid land. It is true the degree of the movement and its phenomena varies in storm and calm, but no peace is granted to the fluid, unstable element. Not to speak of the weight with which the moving atmosphere presses on the surface of the ocean and disturbs its equilibrium, there are three regular movements of the water, produced by the invisible and imperceptible, but, for all that, irresistible power of the sun and moon, going on almost silently in their appointed course, and yet infinitely grander and more mighty than the most terrible tumult of the stirred elements in the West Indian tornado or in the Chinese typhoon.

"The sun which sparkles so pleasantly on the crystal surface is constantly driving the evaporating water upwards by its heat; this ascends as an invisible gas, to fall to earth again as rain and snow. The heaviest rain-drops scarcely make a visible impression on the softest ground where they fall. The falling water exerts a force scarcely worth naming in the mere act of falling. But it then collects into springs, brooks, and streams; and as it again glides gradually down the inclined plains of the land into its mother's bosom, it carries vessels, drives mills, and performs other services in the artificial contrivances of man. The total amount of flowing water in Europe has a power equal to 300,000,000 horses, according to the ordinary mode of calculating for steam engines. This does indeed seem a great force, but we readily reconcile the idea to our minds if we think of the bubbling of springs, the rustling of brooks, the roar of large rivers, and the thunder of falls like those of the Rhine or the Trollhätta. The human mind only too easily falls into the error of regarding that as mighty which makes a powerful impression upon the senses, and readily yields itself to the mistake of imagining that to be unimportant which works in stillness, unobserved and noiselessly, but unceasingly. Thus it is here also. The ocean, assumed to have an average depth of 1000 feet, would contain some twenty-nine millions of cubic miles of water, and if it were emptied, it would require all the streams of the earth to pour their waters in for 40,000 years before the empty basin was filled up again. The whole force of the flowing waters of the earth is not so much as $\frac{1}{1000}$ th of the force which raises this water to the clouds in the form of vapour. The heat used in this to evaporate this water amounts to a full third part of all the heat which is imparted by the sun to our earth. This amount of heat, during only one year, would suffice to melt a crust of ice thirty-two feet thick enveloping the whole earth, while all the fuel consumed in France in one year would not be capable of freeing this planet from a crust of ice one-twelfth of an inch thick. According to the technical reckoning, that amount of heat which annually raises the sea-water in the form of vapour, corresponds to the enormous sum of sixteen billions of horse-power. Consequently a force of more than thirty horse-power acts upon every acre of land, while in the most active of the manufacturing counties of England, Lancashire, the average power employed is only $\frac{1}{1000}$ th of a horse-power per acre, or $\frac{1}{1000}$ th part of this force."

The work of Schouw, 'Earth, Plants, and Man,' was originally written in Danish, but translated into German under the auspices of the author; and it is from that version that the present translation has been made. It opens with a history of plants, from the earliest appearance of vegetation upon the surface of our planet until the present time, —certainly the best part of the book; which is followed by different unconnected papers—'The Mistletoe,' 'The Tea and Coffee Shrubs,' 'The Cotton Plant,' &c.,—all written in a clear and lucid style.

The creation has always been a favourite theme as well as a fruitful source of controversy; and it is really refreshing to find an author like Schouw discussing it without making angry remarks or dealing out blows to those who may differ from him in opinion, or have arrived at conclusions opposed to his. He treats the origin of the existing vegetation with a remarkable degree of skill, and is inclined to believe that every species of plant had several progenitors; that no new species originate at present; that the appearance of the existing vegetation of the earth took place by degrees; and that the Alpine Flora is, in comparison with the rest of the vegetable kingdom, of inferior age, or created last. We will quote a passage to show how the author treats these subjects. He says—

"A third fundamental question, which presses itself upon us, is, whether the appearance of the existing vegetation of the earth took place at once, or by degrees? It appears to me that much speaks in favour of the latter alternative. The surface of the earth only became gradually fitted, through various elevations, for the growth of plants upon it, and the characters of the soil and climate were different in different quarters of the globe; therefore, there is the greatest probability in the assumption that such vegetation originally made its appearance in that, or in those places where the conditions were most favourable. Moreover, plants exist the conditions of whose existence depend upon other plants, and the appearance of the latter must, therefore, have preceded those of the former. Parasitical plants, as well the higher as the lower, could not exist before those plants upon which they grew were in existence. Plants flourishing in the shade—for example, the wood and the forest plants of the present time—could not have made their appearance before trees existed; nor bog-plants before the mosses and conferræ which form peat-bogs. The appearance of manure plants was equally impossible, so long as no manure existed. The growth of vegetation upon naked cliffs commenced with lichens and mosses, which produced a little mould and accumulation of water, in which the seeds of other plants could germinate, and plants of greater dimensions, bushes and trees, gradually made their appearance. It is therefore altogether improbable that in the first appearance of vegetation, the majority of plants would have presented themselves before the conditions in which they live had come into existence. I must, consequently, assume a gradual creation as in the highest degree probable."

This conclusion also applies to the Animal Kingdom, from which it besides receives an additional proof. Every one knows that there are a great many parasitical animals, but no one will venture to assert that they could have existed before those animals upon which they now live and feed were created; nor can any one for a moment believe that those plants which grow upon animals, as, for instance, the *Sphæria Robertsi*, upon the caterpillar of a New Zealand moth, could have been vegetating before those bodies upon which they were to be attached had been called into existence. Schouw also gives a pleasing account of a plant to which many of our readers of both sexes may occasionally have reason to be grateful,—we mean the Mistletoe—which plays a prominent part in northern mythology, particularly in the Balder Myths, and which from time immemorial seems to have been looked upon with peculiar veneration—

"It is not a matter of surprise," says the author, "that a plant of such peculiar aspect, and which occurs in so remarkable position, as the mistletoe, should have awakened the attention of various races, and exerted influence over their religious ideas. It played an especially important part among the Gauls. The oak was sacred with them, their priests abode in oak forests. Oak boughs and oak-leaves were used in every religious ceremony, and their sacrifices were made beneath an oak-tree, but the mistletoe, when it grew upon the tree, was peculiarly sacred, and regarded as a divine gift. It was gathered, with great ceremony, on the sixth day after the first new moon of the year; two white oxen, which were then for the first time placed in yoke, were brought beneath the tree, the sacrificing priest, the Druid, clothed in white garments, ascended it, and cut off the mistletoe with a golden sickle; it was caught in a white cloth held beneath, and then distributed among the bystanders. The oxen were sacrificed with prayers for the happy effects of the mistletoe. A beverage was prepared from this, and used as a remedy for all poisons and diseases, and which was supposed to favour fertility. A remnant of this seems to exist still in France, for the peasant boys

use the expression, 'au gui l'an neuf,' as a New Year's greeting. It is also a custom in England to hang the mistletoe to the ceiling on Christmas eve, the men lead the women under it, and wish them a happy new year. Perhaps the mistletoe was taken as a symbol of the new year, on account of its leaves giving the bare tree the appearance of having regained its foliage."

Mr. Henfrey has added to the work of Professor Schouw notes explaining or improving the text, and thus increased its value considerably. It would have been well if similar additions and corrections had been made to that of Professor Schleiden; and it appears the translator at first "thought of adding a few notes, especially to those passages relating to certain views which are not generally received." We do not think that a writer so conceited as Schleiden, and who has such a mean opinion of all of his colleagues, with the exception of a very limited number, would in subsequent editions have availed himself of Mr. Henfrey's footnotes if they had merely been confined to matters of opinion; but he would certainly have been compelled to take notice of the editor's addenda, if they had pointed out the gross misstatements of facts which Schleiden has so frequently made. It is not our intention to give in this place a list of these blunders, but we would certainly advise the author, should he bring out a new edition, to correct the great number by which his otherwise able publication is disfigured. At page 231, Schleiden informs us that the daisy is found *wild* in New Holland, which is not the case, the plant of that country so much resembling that of our own being the *Brachycoma decipiens*, Hook. Again, at p. 215, he maintains that no *Cactuses*, with the exception of the genus *Peirescia*, have any leaves, quite forgetting that all *Opuntias* are furnished with them; neither is any authenticated statement on record that ever a human being died from sleeping under the Manchineel tree, nor is it true that that poisonous plant is always accompanied by the Trumpet-tree (*Bignonia leucoclylea*).

The 'Popular Sketches from the Mineral Kingdom' contain a most valuable mass of information, and are very cleverly written. The subjects are arranged under the following heads:—The Precious Stones, Ordinary Stones, The Precious Metals, and the Ordinary Metals and Ores. In speaking of gold the author is naturally led to say something of alchemy and the philosopher's stone:—

"The first traces of gold-making, or, to speak more respectfully of it, alchemy, or the hermetic or spagirc art, appear to be of Egyptian origin, and a fabulous Hermes Trismegistos is said to have been the founder of it, about 2000 years before the birth of Christ. But the earliest distinct accounts of it date from the fourth century of our era. The art came from the Egyptians to the Greeks and Alexandrians, and subsequently to the Arabs. In the thirteenth century it was already diffused in Spain, France, England, and Germany; and in 1700 it was pursued elsewhere, although becoming more and more suspected and attacked by the science of chemistry, then budding forth. * * * The most important point in the alchemical creed was, that there existed a substance having the power of converting the base metals into gold, this substance was called the Philosopher's Stone, the Great Elixir, or Magisterium, and of course the first object was to make this. Wonders were not wanting respecting this stone; it was also a universal medicine, and made old young again. * * * Other qualities of the stone are also mentioned, and it is certainly a praiseworthy characteristic, that when only an inferior sort was obtained, in-

capable of making gold, it still had the power of producing a transformation into silver. * * * But how was this wonderful stone obtained? from what materials, and how was it fabricated? In the full descriptions of the mode of preparing it, numerous preparatory processes are mentioned. Thus a philosophic quicksilver, or mercury, must be made, and also a philosophic gold. These were mixed and exposed to a gentle heat, in vessels of particular form; they then yielded a black substance, called the *raven's head*, a continuation of the heat caused this substance to assume a white colour, and it was now called the *white swan*, and if the heat was kept up, the substance would become yellow, and finally red, and then the stone was made to its highest perfection."

Alchemical literature is very rich, and the science itself—if science it can be called—was chiefly studied by physicians and monks; and found ready believers and patrons among princes, especially among those who could spend money:—

"In the thirteenth century Alphonso X., king of Castile, was called an alchemist; Henry VI., of England (1423), issued several decrees encouraging the study of gold-making in order to obtain means to pay the debts of the state. Edward IV., of England, in 1476, accorded to a company a four years' privilege of making gold from quicksilver. The Emperor Rudolph, who ascended the throne of Germany in 1576, was an especially active patron of this art, as was also the Elector Augustus of Saxony. * * * At the same time there were others who did not lay so much stress upon the matter, and Pope Leo X., to whom an alchemist, Aurelli, dedicated a poem on gold-making, sent the latter, in recognition, an empty purse, with the intimation that a man who was master of such an art, could only be in want of a purse to receive the gold he made. In the commencement of the seventeenth century, societies were formed for gold-making; among them was the brotherhood of the Rosicrucians, which endured for more than a hundred years, and counted members in Germany, Holland, France, England, and Italy. Of the Nuremberg Alchemical Society the celebrated philosopher, Leibnitz, was an active member. Now, although there are sufficient examples of gold being made in which no deceit could be discovered, or which no one was able to expose, there are incomparably more cases in which deceit was exposed. * * * The fate usually undergone by those who were convicted of deceit, was that of being hung in a dress covered with tinsel; others, from whose art something was expected to be gained, were seized and shut up. * * * Even as late as 1746, a supposed alchemist, named Seheld, was imprisoned and tortured by the orders of the Empress Maria Theresa, to make him disclose his mystery."

Gradually even the most orthodox became convinced that all alchemists were mere impostors, but that a belief in gold-making is, even in our own days, still entertained by some is beyond all doubt. Those who are in the habit of frequenting the Royal Geographical Society of London, will perhaps remember that last year at one of the meetings, a gentleman, to the great amusement of the assembly, gravely declared his belief in the possibility of effecting the grand object of the alchemist. In reply to the question whether gold can really be made artificially, M. Kobell replies:—"My answer to this is—that the impossibility of making gold out of substances which do not contain it, only holds on the assumption that the elements at present known are actually incapable of chemical decomposition; but the improbability that we shall arrive at other elements, and these such as may enable us to make gold, is so very great, that a man may as well go hunting over hill and dale for a bag of sovereigns, and will find one sooner than he will this art."

These interesting volumes will be read with interest by every man of science; they will prove highly instructive to those who wish to obtain a general view of the vegetable and mineral kingdoms, and they will be eminently useful to popular lecturers as text-books. We cannot conclude this article without thanking Mr. Henfrey for the zeal and ability he displays in rendering science popular, not only by his skilful translation of foreign works, but also by the original productions of his own mind.

Memorials and Correspondence of Charles James Fox. Edited by Lord John Russell. Vols. I. and II. Bentley.

(Second Notice.)

IN the history of English politics there have often been strange or unexpected combinations of men and parties, but the alliance of Mr. Fox and Lord North will always be spoken of emphatically as *the* Coalition. Never had two statesmen displayed more direct and violent antagonism. Fox had gone the length of saying that Lord North deserved to be brought to the block. The men who in a former generation banded together for the overthrow of Walpole, although possessing little common interest or cordial feeling on other points, did not, as in the case of Fox and North, pass from long hostility to immediate friendship. The impression on the public mind produced by this coalition was immense at the time, and its influence gave direction to the whole of Fox's future career. Lord John Russell does not overstate that influence when he says that "the ill-fated coalition deprived him of that power to sway the destiny of the state which would have been happy for his own fame, and conducive to the welfare of his country." It is remarked by Prior, in his 'Life of Burke,' that Lord North readily forgave the uttering of the invectives against him by Mr. Fox, but the public never forgave their being retracted. From the day of the coalition being formed, the power of a statesman whose influence rested on popular support alone was irrecoverably lost. The early part of the second volume of the 'Memorials' contains a full detail of the events succeeding the death of the Marquis of Rockingham. Lord Holland places in as favourable a light as he can the coalition between Mr. Fox and Lord North, but Lord John Russell disallows his apologies, and speaks of the whole movement with condemnation. An able examination and review of the whole subject by Lord John Russell, after stating the various reasons against the alliance, concludes with these remarks on its failure:—

"Thus it appears that the failure of the coalition was not an accident, but a result involved in the elements of which it was composed. The King, forced by a violent wrench to take back Mr. Fox, was an enemy constantly on the watch against his Ministers. The nation was not very partial either to Lord North or to Mr. Fox. The continued miscarriages of the one had humbled the national pride; the private life of the other alarmed public morality. Nor did men readily give their confidence to a man so vehement in his language as Mr. Fox. Sir Samuel Romilly remarks, that men rather blamed Lord North for joining Mr. Fox, than Mr. Fox for joining Lord North. At a later period, the people readily responded to the severe reflection of Mr. Wilberforce, 'that the Coalition partook of the vices of both its parents; the corruption of the one, and the violence of the other.'

"Thus was broken and dispersed by its own dissensions that great confederacy of freedom,

which, nurtured in the adversity of the American War, had revived the ancient virtues of Whiggism, and made the Senate shine with the lights of patriotism and eloquence. Thus vanished the hope of seeing a more brilliant Fox and a more consistent Pitt; the one adorning and advising his country in the conduct of Foreign Affairs, which he above all men understood; and the other applying to the management of our finances the economical principles of Smith, and the wise frugality of Sully. The Coalition prevented a consummation so desirable. It was clear that Lord Shelburne could neither introduce Lord North into his Cabinet, nor could he resist the Whig party in the House of Commons. He himself foresaw that Mr. Fox and Mr. Pitt must, upon his fall, unite. Mr. Dundas, meaning to unite Lord North to Lord Shelburne, forced Lord North into the Coalition with Mr. Fox. The rout of the Whig party; the Pitt Administration; and the War of the French Revolution; were the results of this fatal event.

"There is one remark, however, which must not be omitted. Mr. Fox and Lord North had no personal antipathies to overcome in uniting with each other. Lord Holland has described them truly as being both men of generous temper, of kind feelings, of simple, straightforward, and candid nature. But these sympathies did not compensate for the loss of a great public cause in the hands of men joined together by agreement on public grounds. The Coalition displaced the natural alliances of statesmen, and brought on a fierce contention, which deprived Mr. Fox of the support of the people, and weakened for the rest of his life the influence of his genius, his eloquence, and his wisdom."

Who can read a passage like this without wishing that Lord John Russell had written a Life of Fox instead of "collecting materials for a biography and in elucidation of the history of the times?" Fox's own idea of the prospects of the ministry are stated in a letter to Lord Northampton, marked 'secret and confidential,' dated St. James's-Place, July 17th, 1783:—

"The Coalition gains in my opinion both strength and credit, and the only source of weakness is the idea of the King's dislike. This idea will, no doubt, be a good deal confirmed by his making no English peers for us; but, on the other hand, our lasting out the summer will prove that his dislike is not such as to proceed to overt acts. The fear of which overt acts is, in my judgment, the only thing that prevents us from being abundantly strong in Parliament. Parliament is certainly our strong place, and if we can last during a recess, I think people will have little doubt of our lasting during the Session. Perhaps I see all this a little sanguinely, but I own when I look over our strength in the House of Commons, and see that all hopes of dissension between the two parts of the Coalition are given up, even by the enemy, while, on the other hand, Shelburne, Temple, Thurlow, Pitt, &c., are some of them quite unarrangeable, and have, to my certain knowledge, hardly any communication one with the other, I cannot help thinking the fear of our being overturned in Parliament quite chimerical."

To the machinations by which the coalition was finally broken up the editor makes a brief and dignified allusion in his prefatory note to the second volume:—"Lately a publication of the Duke of Buckingham has given to the world singular and authentic information regarding the influence by which Mr. Fox was defeated, and the men by whom he was deserted. Too easily was the victory gained over a statesman who never would condescend to an intrigue, and never would betray a principle."

The accounts given of the King's personal intercourse with Mr. Fox display the insupportable aversion which he had to the minis-

ter, but the letters are written with great business talent and official tact. The shrewd sense and nervous style of the letters of George III. appear in these volumes, as well as in the 'Grenville Papers,' and other recent publications. We give three short and characteristic notes addressed to Mr. Fox:—

"The King to Mr. Fox.

"Windsor, April 28th, 1783.

"39 min. past 4 P.M.

"Undoubtedly the Emperor is in a most difficult situation, and it seems impossible he should keep the friendship of Russia without a total breach with France. Therefore, we must wait with patience till this is unravelled, which may the easier be done as there does not appear the smallest reason for taking any immediate step.

"G. R.

"The King to Mr. Fox.

"June 15th, 1783.

"The opinion Sir James Harris gives in his private letter to Mr. Fox, that the Empress of Russia inclines to a treaty of alliance in conjunction with us, with Austria, not Prussia, is so conformable to every idea that has come from Petersburg for above two years, that I am convinced it is founded, and this confirms me in the propriety of being civil to both Courts, and lying by till we really see by the events which must occur in a few months, what line we ought to pursue; by being too anxious we may do wrong, and the critical situation of Russia must soon oblige her to court us.

"G. R.

"The King to Mr. Fox.

"Windsor Castle, June 22nd, 1783.

"My opinion coincides entirely with that of Mr. Fox, that appearances favour the idea of Russia beginning to wish a closer intercourse with this country; but surrounded as the political atmosphere is at present with clouds, it is quite right to wait for events, when we shall be better able to judge what may with propriety be done.

"G. R."

Of Ireland and Irish characters Mr. Fox had a just estimate, which he expressed in a letter to Lord Northampton, in November, 1783:—

"This country is reduced low enough, God knows, but depend upon it we shall be tired if, year after year, we are to hear of granting something new, or acquiescing in something new, for the sake of pleasing Ireland. I am sure you must feel as I do upon this subject, but, situated as you are, among Irishmen who, next to a job for themselves, love nothing so well as a job for their country, and hardly ever seeing any one who talks to you soundly on our side of the question, it is next to impossible but you must fall insensibly into Irish ideas more than we do, who see the reverse of the picture, and who, of course, are much more sensible to the reproaches of this country than of that. Ireland appears to me now to be like one of her most eminent jobbers, who, after having obtained the Prime Serjeantry, the Secretaryship of State, and twenty other great places, insisted upon the Lord-Lieutenant's adding a major's half-pay to the rest of his emoluments."

The records of the India Bill discussions have fresh interest at the present moment, and the comments of Lord John Russell on the errors of Mr. Fox give assurance of more cautious policy on this question, even in those who are that statesman's most habitual admirers. It was on the India Bill that Mr. Pitt's opposition first became vehement and decided. Of the political consequences of the final alienation of Pitt and Fox, and the commencement of the long reign of Toryism, Lord John writes with much clearness and vigour.

"*The general election, as is well known to every reader, gave a large majority to Mr. Pitt. So

decided was the expression of public opinion that, when in the new Parliament, Mr. Fox opposed Mr. Pitt's India Bill, he only obtained a minority of 60 against a majority of 271.

"Important consequences have flowed from this struggle.

"The first of these which shall be mentioned was one of serious evil. The King, obtaining a triumph over Mr. Fox and the Whig party, was encouraged in the indulgence of his own will. Unfortunately his mind, which was not of a very expansive nature, retained with adhesive force prejudices of the most obstinate kind, both as to measures and as to persons. Thus while in his youth he had embittered and prolonged the American war by his ascendancy over Lord North, and his violent animosity to Lord Chatham, so in his old age he retarded for a quarter of a century the conciliation of Ireland by his refusal to take the advice of Mr. Pitt, and his rooted dislike of Mr. Fox. Unfortunately also, the prejudices which the Sovereign cherished in his own bosom, were widely diffused throughout the nation; so that when he first parted with, and afterwards conquered Mr. Pitt, he was followed with such sympathy by his people, that for nearly twenty years after he ceased to rule, the policy which was recommended by Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville, by Mr. Fox and Lord Grey, by Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning, by Mr. Grattan and Mr. Plunkett, still remained unaccomplished.

"Had George III. failed in the struggle against Mr. Fox and Lord North, there can be little doubt that the Union with Ireland would have been accompanied by Catholic Emancipation. For it is to be observed that proudly and resolutely as George III. fought a battle against measures he disapproved and men he disliked, he knew well when concession was inevitable. Thus in 1783 he not only yielded independence to America, but allowed Mr. Fox to be one of his Secretaries of State. Thus again, after the peremptory rejection of Mr. Fox in 1804, he made no objection to him as a Minister, when the death of Mr. Pitt left that great statesman without a rival in the House of Commons.

"Another evil consequence of the struggle of 1784 was that it separated for life the two men who were most fitted to guide the destinies of the country. Mr. Fox and Mr. Pitt seemed formed to act together. Mr. Fox had adopted Whig principles from conviction, Mr. Pitt had imbibed them from his illustrious father. Mr. Pitt had, in his entrance to public life, assisted Mr. Fox and the Rockingham party in their opposition to the American war. Mr. Fox had warmly supported Mr. Pitt in his proposals for a reform in the representation of the people. Both had genius for administration, but in totally different departments. Mr. Fox, with little taste for financial details, was intimately acquainted with the affairs of the Continent of Europe, and with the constitution of his own country. Mr. Pitt, who had a very superficial knowledge of foreign affairs, and not much regard for constitutional learning, had an intuitive genius for finance and trade, fortified by a study of the works of Adam Smith, and other eminent authors. Mr. Fox was, before 1784, willing and even desirous to act with Mr. Pitt. Had they been in office together, Mr. Pitt, ten years junior to Mr. Fox in age, and not yet at least his equal in reputation for parliamentary eloquence, could not have pretended to other than the second place. Together they would have formed the strongest Ministry in ability as well as in numbers which this country ever saw.

"But great as the evils were which flowed from the dissension and separation of Mr. Fox and Mr. Pitt, they were neither of the character nor of the permanence which the Whig party believed. The Court did not obtain the direction of public affairs. The Constitution was not altered in favour of the Crown."

Within a few pages of the close of the second volume we arrive at the commencement of Mr. Fox's correspondence with Lord Holland, which the editor remarks will in future give the chief interest to the work.

The very first of these letters, dated May 26, 1791, gives so pleasing a promise of what may be expected from the whole series, and is so characteristic of the writer, that we give it entire.

"Mr. Fox to Lord Holland.

"May 26th, 1791.

"My dear Henry,—You are very much mistaken if you do not believe that your letters give me the greatest pleasure, both in those parts where you speak of what you are about, and those where you give your opinion upon general politics. As to the latter, I rather agree with you that it would be better that Sheridan should not attend the meeting of the 14th of July, if he can be absent without any appearance of being frightened out of the conduct which he held last year; but I am far from thinking that it is *always* right to give way to unfounded prejudices. You must, too, make some allowance for the place where you are (Oxford), which I take to be the very centre and capital of Toryism, and where, of course, the prejudices and alarms you allude to are more general and stronger than elsewhere. I have not read Burke's new pamphlet, but hear a very different account of it from yours. It is in general thought to be mere madness, and especially in those parts where he is for a general war, for the purpose of destroying the present government of France. There is a pamphlet by one Mackintosh, which I hear a great character of, though it is said to go too far in some respects, but I have not yet had time to read it. I really told you what I thought, when I told you I did not think it worth your while to come up for the Libel Business; and, in fact, there was no debate, only two speeches from Erskine and me. I am very happy to have succeeded in it, because I think the thing essentially right, and because I have reason to think that it will do me a good deal of credit, which I am sure will give you as much pleasure as myself.

"As to your studies, I am sorry they are not more intense, but not much surprised—(the Fitzpatrick indolence will come out). However, I am glad you have begun Herodotus, whom I was quite sure you would like. There is a flow, and ease, and pleasantness in him that I know in no other prose writer. I used to think the second book, about Egypt, one of the most entertaining; though perhaps the account of Xerxes' expedition and the affairs of Greece is more interesting. If you do not like algebra, I cannot help it; the liking of such studies or not is mere matter of taste; and if one does not feel them pleasant, I know no way of being persuaded that they are so. But with respect to Demosthenes, if you go on, and are shown the good parts of him, I think you cannot but see in him a superior force of understanding and expression to all other writers. I am so convinced of this, that if you do not feel it at first, I would advise you to read him over again, and desire some of those who admire him to point out to you the passages most to be admired, and the beauties of them; and to make yourself quite sure that it is not owing to inattention if you think less of him than I do. I never read anything of his in the original, except the first Philippic, the three Olynthiacs, and the *Πεντεκονταρχία*; but I not only admire them very much, but the passages which I read, ill-translated from him as I guess, in Gillies' History this year, have greatly confirmed the opinion I had of him. There is a force and pointedness in him arising naturally out of the *business*, and not produced by any far-fetched or affected antithesis, to which all our orators are forced to have recourse, to avoid flatness and dullness, that is, in my judgment, peculiar to him."

We look forward with interest to the appearance of subsequent volumes of these 'Memorials,' which will contain more of Lord John Russell's own writing, as well as the letters of Mr. Fox to Lord Holland. Apart from any estimate of the literary merit of the work, its value as a political and historical record cannot be overrated.

Tales of the Forest: containing the Lotus-Walker and the Spoiler's Doom. By Snel-lius Schickhardus. Madden.

THIS is a remarkable book, both in its matter and in the circumstances of its publication. Though only now published it was printed some years since at Lahore, and considering the difficulties that must have attended its passing through the press, there are wonderfully few faults or irregularities. The author was sent, towards the close of the year 1838, on a surveying expedition in the forest lands of northern India. Engaged in this work, he met with various adventures which afforded agreeable change from the life of the flat, tame, cultivated regions of the country. Some of the old Hindoo traditions, worked up into tales, were heard by the author, and two of these, amplified and versified, are now presented to the English reader. With somewhat of the extravagance and prolixity they also display much of the wild fancy and delicate beauty of Oriental legends. Had the writer possessed taste and skill equal to his materials he might have produced a work in the style of 'Lalla Rookh.' As it is, the 'Tales of the Forest' are written with much cleverness and humour, but in a rough off-hand style, and with notes and pictorial illustrations which reduce the book to the rank of curious literature. But the strangeness of the legends, and the graphic descriptions of scenery and customs which the author's life in India enables him to give, render the work attractive to English readers. Without attempting any outline of the tales, we give a single passage, as a specimen of the style of the poem, and of the author's prose annotations:—

"'Tis winter—and the midnight hour:
And Zayndie sleeps in queenly bower.
Sleeps; but not as once her eyes
Clos'd on earth's realities,
When a father's blessing bless'd
His child: a mother's lips caress'd.
Yet, unchang'd the scene before her;
The old, ancestral roof hangs o'er her;
Round her rise the walls, that heard
Her infant laugh, her prattled word;
Thrill'd, as thrill'd her heart, when smil'd
Her father o'er his loving child,
As, back return'd from war or chase,
He saw her bound to his embrace.

"'Tis the same old battled Keep,
O'er the village beetling steep:
'Tis the same dense mango grove,
Which the lark and koel love.
There, his clustering column'd piles,
His vaulted roofs, and twilight aisles,
Mass by mass the bamboo rears,
Arch festoon'd, and tapering spars,
Oft had her foot those alleys trod,
When winds tempestuous howl'd abroad,
Yet, within the solemn grove,
Sported free the speckled dove;
And all was silence, calm, save when
Snake-like writh'd some giant stem,
From its station in the sky,
To let the fierce tornado by."

"The above is a faithful description of a grove of bamboo, near which, for upwards of a month, I pitched my tent, in the district to which this poem relates. A space of about 300 by 100 yards had been planted with bamboos in regular ranks, which had grown to the height of about 80 feet, forming the most magnificent Gothic temple imaginable, in a succession of aisles supported on either hand by clusters of slender columns, and roofed over head by the ruined arch formed by the intersecting stems. Indeed no one who has ever entered one of these groves, could for a moment doubt the origin of the Gothic style of architecture, which is a faithful and spirited model of the natural temple in which he stands: the rich embellishments of which were no doubt intended to represent the foliage of the bamboo column and arch.

"I was several times in the grove aforesaid during heavy gales. But within, there was scarcely a perceptible vibration of the air; and the sole sound

was the war of the wind with the summits of the taller stems, which writhed like huge serpents, without any visible cause, whilst every other leaf was still; and emitted such a sound as could be imagined to proceed from the meeting clashing scales of a hydra.

"Near one extremity of this grove, but completely walled in on all sides by the bamboo masses, was a small space occupied by the dwelling of some Gosynes, and by a cemetery exclusively sacred to the sepulture of this race, from time immemorial. For, contrary to the usage of other Hindoos, the corpse of the Gosyne is not burnt, nor even cast to the waters—those great purifiers of unholiness: but is buried in a lair of salt and in a sitting posture, as he was first found in his mother's womb. Upon these tombs were collected, daily, by the sound of the conch, some fifteen or sixteen chackalls, to receive a pension of food, being whatever remained over and above the necessities of the Gosynes, who are themselves pensioners of the public. Many of these chackalls had a very mangy appearance, which I was uncharitable enough to connect with the salted condition of their deceased benefactors. The chackall is esteemed by Gosynes to be one of Kali's (Doorgah's) dogs, and is never molested. The same superstition prevails in a much higher degree with respect to the wolf, which in that district it is deemed so unlucky to kill, that villages are sometimes forsaken by their inhabitants because the blood of a wolf has been shed within the site. A Hindoo will seldom or never venture to kill this animal even to save the life of his infant child, and the wolf, all over India, is an expert kidnapper."

The volume contains strange legends cleverly told, while both the poems and the illustrative notes contain much curious information on the customs, religion, and traditions of India. Had the author controlled his boisterous wit and exuberant fancy, he might have produced a work worthy of permanent literary note, instead of one suited merely for the passing amusement of the general reader.

NOTICES.

Faust: a Tragedy, by J. W. von Goethe; with Copious Notes, Grammatical, Philological, and Exegetical. By Falek Lebahn, Ph.D. Longman and Co.

MR. LEBAHN'S preface informs us that this edition of Goethe's greatest poem has been prepared for the use of students who read German without a master. "The grammatical notes, which are to serve instead of a vocabulary, contain the whole of the text, in German and English, classified according to the rules of grammar, with reciprocal references to the pages." In the exegetical notes Goethe's meaning is given strictly, and where Mr. Lebahn differs from other translators, he uniformly supports his version by adducing supporting passages from Goethe's other works. Copious illustrative notes, explanatory of the allusions and purpose of the poem, are also given. The work has been performed conscientiously and with ability; and any student of the language who thoroughly masters it, will find himself in a position to attack any German work in general literature. No book presents so fine an example of the power and plastic beauty of the German language as the 'Faust,' and on none, therefore, can the student better bestow the patient labour necessary for procuring an insight into the grammar and genius of that language. Mr. Lebahn's labours at once shorten this task, and sweeten it by the pleasant and instructive illustrations and analogies which he has brought together from other writers.

The Subject-Matter of a Course of Six Lectures on the Non-Metallic Elements. By Professor Faraday. Arranged from the Lecturer's Notes by J. Scoffern.

THE name of Faraday is sufficient guarantee for the excellence of anything done or written by him. In the first rank among men of science, he is no less distinguished for his sound judgment, and for

his marvellous tact in presenting abstruse researches in popular style. Many who have listened with delight and profit to the lectures at the Royal Institution, will be glad to have a permanent record of some of the instructions there given. Professor Scoffern has prepared, under the sanction of Dr. Faraday, reports of six lectures on the non-metallic elements, the lecturer's notes being supplied, and his revision given to many parts of the volume. The substance of Dr. Faraday's lectures are therefore found in this work, Mr. Scoffern ably filling up and connecting such parts as were interrupted by the experiments, and adding information on points concerning which the lecturer took for granted his audience had previous knowledge. A completeness and unity is accordingly found in the volume, which would not belong to ordinary reports of oral and experimental teaching, while the revision and superintendence of the lecturer ensure the accuracy and authenticity of the notices. Apart from the chemical facts presented in the work, the philosophical views and popular expositions of science by a lecturer such as a Faraday, render the volume as valuable to the student as it is attractive to the general reader.

Æschyl's Eumenides. The Greek Text with English Notes, Critical and Explanatory, an English Verse Translation, and an Introduction. By Bernard Drake, M.A. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.

MR. Drake has performed a service which will be appreciated by classical scholars in this country. The valuable dissertations of Müller on the Eumenides of Æschylus threw fresh light on the history and structure of the play, and suggested many subjects of speculation and discussion. The Cambridge translation of Müller's work, published in 1835, is now out of print, and Mr. Drake has accordingly in an Introductory chapter presented an Analysis of the principal Essays, with an examination of Müller's statements and opinions. The researches of subsequent critics and historians have been used to enrich this introductory treatise, the name of our own historian, Mr. Grote, having honourable prominence among the many English and continental scholars who have contributed to our knowledge of the Greek drama, and of this great work of Æschylus. The Greek text adopted by Mr. Drake is that of Wellaner, corrected by the suggestions of Hermann, Paley, Linwood, and other editors or commentators. The foot-notes will be useful to students, and also contain occasional remarks and criticisms which will attract the notice of scholars. Of the translation we do not say more at present than that it is a faithful rendering of the original, and contains spirited and elegant passages. A comparison with other versions would require more space than we can at present afford, but we may take another opportunity of reviewing the labours of recent editors and translators of Æschylus. In this, as in other previous works of a similar kind, Mr. Drake has provided for junior students, or for those who have not access to varied sources of information, useful and valuable aid for the intelligent study of ancient history and literature.

The Chronicle of Henry of Huntingdon. Also, The Acts of Stephen, King of England. Translated and Edited by Thomas Forester, A.M. Bohn.

A RECENT volume of Bohn's 'Antiquarian Library' contains two of the most curious and valuable of the old English historical records—the Chronicle of Henry of Huntingdon, and the Acts of Stephen. The latter was printed some years ago by the Historical Society, but is now for the first time translated. The authorship is unknown, and no date occurs in the whole course of the manuscript, but there are many internal evidences of its being a genuine contemporary record. There is only one manuscript known to be extant, and from it the work was published by Duchesne, at Paris, in 1619, in his collection of the Norman historians. It is a stirring narrative of events in the troubled times of King Stephen. Henry of Huntingdon's Chronicle is better known, and has been more used by historians. The early books of his history are not of much value, but as the Chronicle approaches his

own time—the reigns of Henry I., Stephen, and Henry II.—it assumes more the character of a faithful and authentic narrative. With many distinguished public men he was on familiar terms, and from them obtained materials of value for his work. There is less of the superstitious and marvellous in Henry of Huntingdon's writings than in those of any of his historical predecessors, and the absurd legends are confined chiefly to the early books. He is one of the earliest historians as distinguished from the mere chroniclers of English events. His general remarks on the persons and the incidents to which his Chronicle relates are often striking and ingenious. The style is graphic, and sometimes highly poetical, so that the book, especially in its later portions, will be read with lively interest. The volume is altogether an acceptable one for historical students.

The Star in the Desert. By the Author of "A Trap to Catch a Sunbeam." W. N. Wright.

LIKE all the former tales of the same author, this little story is written in a pleasing style, and pervaded by good and kindly feeling. With the exception of the incident which gives the title to the book, there is nothing of the supernatural machinery which the author usually introduces into her stories. The young wife of a wealthy man is expelled from her home, on account of her husband finding that he had been deceived as to her rank, though her humble origin was veiled by her naturally noble manner and superior education. This somewhat unnatural and ungenerous step being taken, the husband settles a pension on his discarded wife, and, retiring to a remote part of the country, lives a misanthropic mysterious life. In her gloomy widowhood, the vision of a star one day appears to poor Effie, and is to her the symbol of hope of better times, which are brought round in a manner skillfully conceived and touchingly described. Accident, or Providence rather, leads Effie to the neighbourhood of the place where her husband was living, and she finds in the gardener a friend of her childhood, who becomes the good genius of the tale. The child is brought to the gardener's lodge, and thence to the housekeeper's room, where it attracts the notice of the master of the house. His inquiries result in an interview with the mother, and in the recognition and restoration of his wife, his mind being previously prepared for this by his being softened by the reception of Christian truth. The tale ends with scenes of bright happiness, which shine the more from the contrast with the previous darkness and misery. In telling a simple story, and in the management of dialogue, the author is excelled by few writers of the present day.

Little Nora. By J. L. Blackwood and Sons. THIS is a very pleasing and touching tale in ballad metre, the excellence of the matter of the book deserving the superior style of typography and of illustrations in which it appears. The story of the poor little orphan child is told with simple pathos, in language of which the opening stanzas will give a specimen:—

"I saw her in the early dawn
Of helpless infancy,
Laid in her aged grandsire's arms,
A precious legacy.
"And while the old man sadly gazed
The sleeping infant smiled;
But faster fell the tears of age
Upon the smiling child."

Few books pass through our hands which we find suitable in every respect for very young readers, but 'Little Nora,' we can cordially recommend, both for the interest of the story, and the wisdom and piety of the lessons conveyed by it. The lithograph engravings increase the attractiveness of the book for young people.

Histoire des Révolutions de l'Empire d'Autriche, années 1848 et 1849. By Alphonse Balleydier. Paris: Comon.

M. BALLEYDIER is the *beau idéal* of a modern French historian:—he thinks history should be as entertaining as a novel, and he puts it into dramatic scenes; he thinks that it should be embellished with fiction, and he invents; he thinks that it should be partial, and he is all on one side; he thinks that

falsehood is an agreeable spice, and he fibs unscrupulously; he thinks that the public are so very gullible that they will believe anything, and he relates to them with great seriousness private conversations and cabinet deliberations which it is utterly impossible he could have heard, and as impossible that any shorthand writer could have noted down. We suppose that books of this kind suit the French reading public, since they are written and read; but we should be sorry to see anything like them gain ground in England, because, however amusing, they mislead, and are a gross usurpation of the almost sacred name of history. One little fact will show the credit that is due to this precious historian:—he holds Kossuth up to scorn and contempt for having been—as he alleges—rather wild in youth, as many young men are, have been, and will be; and he holds Jellachich, the chief of the ruffianly Croats, up to admiration for being even now remarkably free with women, and still loving his bottle.

Traditions of De-coo-dah, and Antiquarian Researches. By William Pidgeon. With engravings. Samson Low, Son, and Co.

TO the historian, the ethnologist, and the antiquarian, this book, published at New York, will afford materials of curious research and important study. The author, an enterprising traveller and enthusiastic antiquary, traversed great tracts of country searching for and examining the earthen mounds which are the only relics of the ancient inhabitants of North and South America. In connexion with these remains he gathered many traditional memorials, leading him to the conclusion that there were ancient races distinct from and more numerous than the present Indians who are called aboriginal. The volume is embellished with seventy engravings, illustrative of the form, position, and contents of these mounds. Plans are given of embankments and other works of prodigious extent, enclosing vast areas, some of which, the author says, must have required the labour of thousands of men for long periods together. In some of his exploring journeys Mr. Pidgeon had the advantage of being accompanied by De-coo-dah, an Indian chief, from whom he received most of the traditional memorials here recorded. Besides the remains of the mound-builders, there are notices of many antiquities of a higher kind, including those similar to the nations of the East and of Egypt. The author has done much to show how unfounded is the idea that America has no antiquities. In their own kind the remains of former races in the New World are as remarkable as those which have engaged the attention of historians and ethnologists in Nineveh, Egypt, and Greece.

Sermons by the late Rev. W. H. Krause, A.M. Dublin. Edited by Charles Stuart Stanford, A.M. Prebendary of St. Michael's. Dublin: Herbert.

THESE volumes contain sermons of no ordinary kind. Mr. Krause was one of the most popular and highly esteemed clergymen in Ireland, although not distinguished for rhetorical eloquence, nor are his writings marked by great literary excellence. But in the statement and illustration of doctrinal truth, and in the application of that truth to experimental and practical religion, few preachers of recent times have been so successful. Since the sermons of the venerable Watts Wilkinson, one of the predecessors of Henry Melville in the City of London Tuesday lectureship, no clergyman of the Anglican church has displayed in his discourses so much of the solid theology and spiritual unction for which the old Puritan divines of England were famous. In the preface to the second volume it is stated that the whole impression of the first volume was sold within a few days of its publication. As few printed sermons pay their own expenses, this rapid sale attests the high estimation in which Mr. Krause was held in Dublin, which was the scene of his ministerial labours. We shall be glad if our notice assists in introducing to readers on this side the Channel a work of more sterling merit, and worthy of wider popularity than the majority of books of the class.

The Marine Botanist. An Introduction to the Study of the British Sea-Weeds. By Isabella Gifford. Third edition, greatly enlarged. Brighton: Folthorp.

WE notice a new edition of this useful and beautiful work, as it is greatly enlarged and improved, and deserves to be more generally known. To the descriptions of the common sea-weeds shorter notices of all the rarer species found on our shores are now added. The arrangement and nomenclature are taken from the last edition of Dr. Harvey's 'Manual of British Algae,' to which this treatise will be serviceable as an introduction. Whilst the descriptions are given in a simple and popular style, they are at the same time scientifically accurate, and the book may be recommended as a complete elementary manual of British marine botany. No one can read the author's Introduction without feeling a lively interest in this department of Natural History, and the directions for collecting and preserving specimens will be useful for the guidance of those who commence the practical study of marine plants. The illustrations of the volume are printed in oil colours by Dickes.

SUMMARY.

THE third volume of the new edition of *Lord Mahon's History of England*, from the peace of Utrecht to the peace of Versailles, opens with the year 1740, when Walpole's power was beginning to totter, and William Pitt, afterwards Lord Chatham, was rising into notice, closing with the suppression of the rebellion of '45, and the final destruction of the cause of the Stuarts. The present volume comprises some of the most stirring events of the period of which Lord Mahon is the historian, and contains some of the best specimens of his style. We observe in several parts of this volume marks of the careful revision of the author, additions and alterations being made, as for instance, with regard to the character and proceedings of the Duke of Bedford, whose correspondence was published after the appearance of Lord Mahon's second edition.

Of one of the best recent books on France, by an American, *Parisian Sights and French Principles seen through American Spectacles*, noticed by us at the time of its appearance in New York ('L. G.' 1852, p. 858), an edition is published by Clarke, Beeton, and Co., which English readers will find a most amusing and original work, written in a lively style, and embellished with clever illustrations.

A short paper on a very important subject, *Schools and other similar Institutions for the Industrial Classes*, read before the Society of Arts, by the Rev. R. Dawes, Dean of Hereford, contains valuable suggestions, especially as to the policy and practicability of rendering industrial schools self-supporting. The tract deserves the attention of all who are interested in the education and improvement of the working classes.

A volume of *Reports and Papers read at the Meetings of the Architectural Societies of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, the Counties of York and Lincoln, and the County of Bedford*, contains various papers valuable and interesting to antiquaries and ecclesiologists. A little book full of sensible, earnest, and practical counsels, addressed to the young, by the authoress of 'Little Things,' is entitled *Things to be Thought of*. On the formation of character, habits of study, right employment of time, control of the thoughts, and other such subjects, many useful and judicious hints are thrown out. The concluding chapter on 'minor morals' is very good; and we think that a separate little book on the proprieties and lesser moralities of daily life, bearing that title, might by this authoress be prepared, with certainty of being both popular and useful. Miss Sinclair continues her 'Common Sense Tracts,' the last, *Frank Vanstittart; or, the Model Schoolboys*, being the best of the series, cleverly written, and containing sensible remarks and good suggestions on education. The abuses of the modern system of cramming the memory with facts, rather than exercising and

strengthening the mind generally, are pointed out, and the mischief of overworking the intellect in children to the neglect of the cultivation of the heart, and the danger of enfeebling bodily health.

A short treatise on the *History and Manufacture of Boots and Shoes*, by J. Sparkes Hall, being a lecture delivered at the Society of Arts, contains curious information as to this article of dress in ancient and modern times, with useful and sensible suggestions for practical improvements. A tract, by J. Brydon, entitled *Hints on Heraldry, for the Use of Ladies*, presents a brief and intelligible statement of the elements of that branch of knowledge. Mr. Brydon gives as much information as will be desired by the majority of people on the matter of heraldry, his definitions and plates enabling any one to understand heraldic terms and allusions of common occurrence, and preparing for the study of more elaborate works. Instructions are appended for working armorial bearings for screens, chairs, cushions, and other articles within the range of female needlework. A new monthly publication, *The Educational Expositor*, edited by F. Tate, F.R.A.S., and J. Tilleard, F.R.G.S., with the assistance of able contributors, contains a variety of matter useful to those practically engaged in instructing the young, and a monthly report of educational intelligence. The number for May presents an abstract of Lord John Russell's bill for promoting education in the cities and boroughs of England, the discussion in the House of Commons on the altered management clause, and other public movements of importance in the matter of national education. A series of *Tracts on Indian Reform* contain brief statements on various topics which the approaching discussions on Indian affairs will bring prominently before the country. Four of the tracts are already issued, 'On the Government of India since 1834,' 'On the Finances of India,' 'Notes on India,' by Dr. Buist, editor of the 'Bombay Times,' and 'On the Native States of India.' These are to be followed by 'Observations on the Evidence taken before the Parliamentary Committee,' by J. Sullivan, Esq., and 'An Account of Public Works in India.'

The *Adventures of a Carpet Bag*, by Edward Thomson, author of 'Burnaby Lee,' illustrated by Robert Cruickshank, is an entertaining *jeu d'esprit*, which will amuse travellers by the road or readers at home.

In the 'Parlour Library' a recent volume contains *Time the Avenger*, by the author of 'Emilia Wyndham.'

Of a *New Edition of the authorized Version of the Bible*, the first part, containing the Book of Genesis, is completed. Of the plan and general arrangement of this version we have already ('L. G.' 1852, p. 780), spoken favourably from specimens which we had seen, and from the confidence inspired by the 'Chronological New Testament,' on the same principles on which this version of the Old Testament is to be prepared. The critical and illustrative notes are brief, but pertinent and valuable, there being also marginal annotations and references, and other aids to the intelligent and profitable study of the sacred text. The most recent labours of scholars, travellers, and divines have been made use of in the preparation of the notes, without the comments and researches of old annotators being neglected. The pictorial cover of the first part is very objectionable, the design being in bad taste, and the subject offensive and irreverent, a specimen of anthropomorphism for which the editor we trust is in no way accountable. A plain outside would accord better with the contents of such a book.

A Second Edition of a *Practical Treatise on the Manufacture and Distribution of Coal-Gas*, by Samuel Clegg, Jun., Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and Fellow of the Geological Society, forms a complete cyclopædia of information on all matters connected with this important subject. A historical account of the use of coal-gas, the chemistry and mechanical arts connected with the manufacture, and practical directions, drawings, and estimates, are among the contents of the volume, which will be prized both by pro-

fessional engineers and by those who have charge of establishments where the employment of gas on a large scale is in use or in contemplation.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Ahab, the Apostate, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
 Alister's Barriers to National Prosperity of Scotland, 7s. 6d.
 Arnold's School Classics, Selections from Cicero, 2s. 6d.
 Aytoun's Lays of Scottish Cavaliers, 6th edition, 7s. 6d.
 Bruce's Classic and Historic Portraits, 2 vols. p. 8vo, £1 1s.
 Burton's (John) History of Scotland, 2 vols. 8vo, 1s. 6d.
 Castlereagh's Correspondence, Vols. 9 to 12, 8vo, £2 16s.
 Chambers's Educational Course, Phædrus, 12mo, 1s. 6d.
 Chesterfield's (Earl of) Letters, Vol. 5, 8vo, cloth, 14s.
 — First 4 vols. 8vo, £2 2s.
 Coghlan's Miniature Guide to Paris, 32mo, sewed, 2s. 6d.
 — Miniature Guide to the Rhine, 32mo, cloth, 3s.
 Crabbs's (G.) Conveyancing, 4th edition, 2 vols. 8vo, £2 2s.
 De Castro's Religious Intolerance of Spain, 8vo, 8s. 6d.
 Edwards's Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Eytoun's Herd Book of Hereford Cattle, Vol. 2, 8vo, 11s.
 Family Herald, Vol. 10, 4to, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Faraday's Lectures on Non-Metallic Elements, 5s. 6d.
 Felice's Protestants of France, 2 vols. post 8vo, cloth, 12s.
 Foster's (Mrs. M. A.) Italian Literature, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
 Francis's (Dr. J. T.) Change of Climate, post 8vo, 8s. 6d.
 Garwood's (J.) Million City, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
 Gay's Fables in French, 12mo, cloth, 6s.
 Godwin's (Rev. B.) Philosophy of Atheism, foolscap, 3s.
 Goodrich's (A. M.) Clandu, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Hall's (Mrs. S. C.) Week at Killarney, small 4to, cloth, 8s.
 Howitt's (A. M.) Art Student of Munich, 2 vols., 14s.
 Illustrated London Library, Vol. 7, English Forests, &c., 6s.
 Jackson's Six Sermons on the Christian Character, 3s. 6d.
 King's (R.) Who was St. Titus? 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Lawrence (R. M.) On Electricity and Galvanism, 2s. 6d.
 Liber Scholasticus, 2nd edition, 12mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Life of St. Boniface, by the Rev. G. W. Cox, 2s. 6d.
 List of Natural Flies taken by the Trout, 12mo, 4s. 6d.
 Little Nora, crown 4to, cloth, 6s. 6d.
 Meissner's (M.) German and English Dialogues, 2s. 6d.
 Memoir of Charles Mordaunt, 2 vols. post 8vo, cloth, 18s.
 Memorial Vite Sacerdotalis, foolscap 8vo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
 Miall's Memorials of Early Christianity, post 8vo, cl. 5s.
 National Illustrated Library, Vol. 27, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Paul's (Dr. R.) Life of Alfred, 8vo, cloth, 5s.
 Rabson's (John) Constructive Greek Exercises, 7s. 6d.
 Rolando's Travels, by A. Bowman, 2nd Series, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
 Russell's (Joshua) Christian Sabbath, &c., foolscap 8vo, 5s.
 Sam Slick's Wise Saws and Modern Instances, 2 vols., £1 1s.
 Stegall's (J.) Manual for the College of Surgeons, 10s.
 Stevens's (W.) Nature of Asiatic Cholera, 8vo, cl. 10s. 6d.
 Swindle's (Rev. T.) Sunday Readings, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
 Thoughts on Solitude, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Tupper's (M. F.) Proverbial Philosophy, fcap. 8vo, 3s. 6d.
 Watts's (Mrs. F.) Poems, 12mo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
 Worley's (Lady E. S.) Slave and other Poems, 2s. 6d.

PROFESSOR AYTOUN'S LECTURES.

PROFESSOR AYTOUN delivered his second lecture on Poetry at Willis's Rooms on Monday last to a numerous and brilliant audience. He began by pointing out the differences between national styles as occasioned by climate, social habits, and manner of thought, remarking, that to an oriental even the most impassioned European poetry would probably appear tame, whereas we, on the contrary, could not relish the wild flights of Antur, or the profuse imagery of the Sanscrit poetry. He then proceeded to show that there were radical differences of taste even among the European nations, as instanced by the different style and form of English as compared with French tragedy; and he argued from that, that in æsthetics foreign imitation should be received with the utmost caution. He showed how, in the Elizabethan era, the Italian influences had given an exotic character to a large department of English poetry; and how, at a later period, under Charles II., the French taste had been introduced. Whilst doing full justice to the masculine vigour and innate power of Dryden, the lecturer condemned his attempt to introduce rhymed tragedies on the French model, and expressed his opinion that the beauties of the artificial school which followed were like the effects produced by frost—sparkling but cold. He vindicated the claims of popular poetry to consideration, on the ground that the poet ought rather to address himself to the emotions than to the understanding, and that for the former purpose it was necessary to preserve simplicity. "We talk," he said, "too much at the present day about art, and pay too little attention to nature. This tendency is traceable everywhere—in music, in painting, and in poetry. I do not deny the splendour of the occasional results, but I think that we are often far more dazzled

than delighted." These remarks, coupled with what fell from him in the previous lecture, may be held to embody the Professor's theory, that, beyond a certain point, rhetorical or artificial expression is injurious to poetry, and that the simple form is almost invariably to be preferred. The lecturer then passed to the subject of epic poetry, which he illustrated from the Greek cycle. He represented Homer, not as the originator, but as the reconstructor of existing tradition; and explained why, in narrative poetry, it was not necessary that tradition should be taken as accurate. One thing alone was necessary—a locality, which the poet might adopt as a theatre, and people from his own fancy. He drew a vivid and highly interesting sketch of the plain of Troy, with the many changes it had undergone; and then remarked, that although nothing but the natural features of the scene, such as Ida and the sandhills by the sea, were left, the antiquaries had such faith in the reality of Homer's song, that they still wandered over the plain, looking for the monument of Ilus, or traces of the ruins of Pergamus. He then showed that Spenser, by assigning no locality or age to his 'Faerie Queen,' and by dealing in obvious allegory, had sacrificed the material element of human interest in that poem, which otherwise was one of singular beauty. And in illustration of his position that poetry intended for the popular ear was more powerful and stirring than that composed for silent reading, the lecturer drew an elaborate but very striking comparison between the poems of Homer and Virgil, assigning the superiority to the former. He then alluded to lyrical poetry, a branch of composition which he said ought to be sedulously cultivated in every country, but which was not likely to be cultivated in this, so long as the musical world preferred Italian to English words as the accompaniment of music in the *salon* as well as in the theatre. The lecture concluded with a striking picture of the three forms of poetry—the epic, lyrical, and dramatic—as represented at one of the public festivals of Greece about 500 years before the Christian era, by an old rhapsodist, by Pindar, and by the performers on the cart of Thespis.

TREASURE-TROVE.

WE lately took occasion to remark on the laws of treasure-trove, citing a recent case in which its operation had been the cause of much hardship and injustice. We have again opportunity to bring the subject under the notice of our readers, especially of those who are interested in the preservation of our national antiquities. There have been recently found near Brechin several curious swords, which, upon the discovery being made known, were immediately seized by the Crown as treasure-trove. This seizure is, we are credibly informed, producing the worst effects. A correspondent observes, "I have good information that a gold chain, not a few miles from the same spot, was discovered by some workmen engaged in clearing away a cairn, and that it is now in the hands of an individual in the neighbourhood, but nobody will own to having it, lest the Crown should step in and take it without payment." It is somewhat surprising that, notwithstanding the obvious spread of archaeological studies in this country, no Member of Parliament (and the list of the Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries numbers several) has moved for a Committee in either house, to inquire into the law of treasure-trove, its effects, and how to put it on a better footing. The question only wants a practical man to clear the ground, and put the matter in such a shape that the Government may deal with it. It is not to be supposed that men in office, who have their hands full, will undertake the preliminary labour; but clear the way, and we venture to say they will give their aid, especially on the report of a well-chosen committee. Some of the people who were 'robbed,' as they term it, of the swords we have referred to, talk of questioning the right of the Crown to take anything that is neither of gold nor silver; but though there is apparent colour for this alle-

gation under the definition that "treasure is of gold or silver;" yet the right of the Crown, in Scotland at least, rests on the rule, "Quod nullius est fit Domini Regis," which applies "in that sort of moveable subjects which are presumed to have once had a proprietor who is now unknown," and they fall to the Crown as escheats. We submit the following sketch of a proposed inquiry into this law. What is the law of treasure-trove in England, Scotland, and Ireland? If the right be in the Crown, has the Crown been in the practice of alienating it in favour of Lords of Manors and others? If so, whether it is effected by a grant of manorial rights in general terms, or whether a special mention is necessary? Does an erection of lands in Scotland, either into a barony or a regality, carry with it a right to treasure-trove without special mention? Is the right included in a grant of lands with the four pleas of the Crown? Has the right been alienated from the Crown in many instances in the several countries respectively? (It is believed that there are few instances in Scotland, if any.) We anticipate no difficulty in dealing with the Crown, where the right still remains with it, and if the extent of subject-rights could be approximately ascertained, means might be found to deal with them without injustice, although there might in some cases be a little hardship. There must be a scale of per centage over and above intrinsic value of material in different cases, as in coins, in works of art in gold and silver, in which workmanship should be estimated; in fictile vases, &c., workmanship would constitute the chief value. Of course, the scales must be of general application to the several classes, so as to avoid minuteness of detail. It seems doubtful whether the Danish rule of one certain per centage over intrinsic value would be equitable in England, Scotland, and Ireland: at all events, it is to be earnestly hoped that the cases we have quoted will at length lead to something being done to amend the present law or procedure under it.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE following is a list of the candidates recommended by the Council for election into the Royal Society on the 2nd June: James Apjohn, M.D.; John George Appold, Esq.; John Allan Broun, Esq.; Antoine Jean François Claudet, Esq.; Edward J. Cooper, Esq.; E. Frankland, Esq.; John Hall Gladstone, Esq.; Joseph Beete Jukes, Esq.; Robert MacAndrew, Esq.; Charles Manby, Esq.; Joseph Prestwich, Esq.; William John Macquorn Rankine, Esq.; William Wilson Saunders, Esq.; William Spottiswoode, Esq.; Count P. de Strzelecki.

On Wednesday last a meeting of the gentlemen who have signed the memorial to Her Majesty's Government, praying for a *central* site on which to establish the scientific societies of the metropolis, was held in the meeting-room of the Royal Society, when the subjoined resolution was agreed to:—That the following noblemen and gentlemen be appointed a deputation to present the memorial to Her Majesty's Government—viz., the Earl of Rosse, the Lord Wrottesley, the Earl of Harrowby, Sir R. H. Inglis, Sir Philip Egerton, Sir R. I. Murchison, Thomas Bell, Esq., Edward Forbes, Esq., Thomas Graham, Esq., W. R. Grove, Esq., H. Hallam, Esq., L. Horner, Esq., and Col. Sabine, and to act as a committee, with full power to take any steps in furtherance of the objects of the memorial which may seem to them expedient.

The Geological Society's 'Annual Report,' which has been just issued, presents a gratifying instance of the vigour and high scientific renown for which our learned societies might be distinguished if apartments were provided for them by the Government, and their funds left free to be expended in scientific objects. The museum, and library, and collection of charts have been well kept up; and owing to the regular publication of an illustrated 'Quarterly Geological Journal,' which has reached its ninth volume, great encouragement has been afforded to geological researches, providing a constant supply of papers to keep up the interest of the meetings. During the past financial

year upwards of 600*l.*, more than a third of the Society's income, have been expended in the publication of this journal; and we have no hesitation in saying, that, considered as the Society's chief sustaining power, it is its best investment. No Society can thrive while its facilities of publication are limited and uncertain. Without means to print, there is no encouragement to write; and without written papers, the best Society's meetings cannot but languish and become deserted.

The May meetings of the various religious and philanthropic societies at Exeter Hall are at present chief points of attraction in the metropolis. As a sign of the times, these gatherings give noble proof of the wide diffusion of Christian charity and of practical piety in our day. The number of societies, embracing every object of benevolence, from the evangelization of heathen countries down to the prevention of cruelty to dumb animals, is now very large, and their annual revenues are enormous. Several of the foreign missionary societies collect nearly 100,000*l.* yearly, and for the Ragged Schools, City Missions, and other home objects, vast sums are also provided. Amongst the various societies at this season holding their anniversaries, there are a few with the intolerant and bigoted spirit of which liberal and generous minds can have little sympathy. These have unhappily caused evil associations to be connected in many minds with Exeter Hall and 'the braying' of its May meetings. But such reproach is only casual and unmerited, the general proceedings of these assemblies being such as commend themselves to the respect and approval of all right-minded men. We need only instance the Church Missionary Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society, to the jubilee of which we lately referred. The statements made at this meeting were of the most gratifying kind, the energy and extent of the Society's labours in the circulation of the sacred Scriptures being such as to secure the wide and speedy spread of knowledge and civilization, as well as of the higher influences of Christian truth, throughout the world. The reports of the proceedings of other societies have been equally encouraging and important in their several spheres. We are happy to observe at these May meetings, the appearance on the platform of strangers and foreigners eminent in literature, as well as distinguished for piety. From the Continent, and from America, several men of note have taken part in the proceedings at Exeter Hall, among whom is the Rev. Mr. Beecher Stowe. The reception which Mrs. Stowe and her husband have received in this country, while it is a demonstration of the old English love of freedom and abhorrence of slavery and oppression, is also a proof of the high homage that genius and humanity will always secure, even in a land which the people of the New World regard as so full of prejudice and exclusiveness.

We have received the Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Board of Direction of the Mercantile Library Association of New York, an institution of high reputation in America, and which has been of late prominently brought before the English public by its engagement of Mr. Thackeray to deliver his first course of lectures in the New World. The Mercantile Library Association occupies very much the same ground as the Philosophical Institutions, Athenæums, and other seats of popular literature and science in our own country. Reading-rooms, classes, lectures, and a circulating library, are the chief points to which the Association gives attention. The library is one of the best in America in point of numbers, ranking only after those of Harvard College, Boston Athenæum, Philadelphia Library Company, and the Astor Library. In New York the rich endowments of the Astor Library place it first, but the Mercantile Library is next in rank, and for miscellaneous readers, and foreign as well as home literature, it is second to none in the Union. Commenced and sustained chiefly by merchants and merchants' clerks, the institution in its present position is highly honourable to the intelligence and enterprise of New York. The list of magazines and newspapers in the reading-room we find to present a total of 188 publications,

of which 101 are American, 70 English, 10 French, and 7 German. The funds of the Association seem to be in a flourishing condition, and there is every mark of active and growing prosperity. The engagement of Mr. Thackeray implied a large expenditure on the part of the directors, but we are happy to learn from their Report that the scheme was not only financially successful, but that to these lectures may be ascribed "the awakening of a public taste for this class of instruction and entertainment, which had well-nigh become suppressed by the weight of other more exciting and corruptive pleasures." Among the other lectures of the year were two on Geology, by Professor Guyot, and one on Australia, by Thomas F. Meagher, Esq. Since the preparation of this Report for 1852, the trustees of the Association have, we believe, secured the Astor Place Opera House, a better site and larger accommodation having become requisite for the various purposes of the institution.

A line in the obituary paragraphs of the Paris papers made known a few days ago that M. Sewrin, "the senior dramatic author of France," had departed this life, aged eighty-two. "Sewrin, —who is he?" was immediately the question in the literary and theatrical circles. Nobody could tell—nobody had heard of him. Inquiries were instituted, and it was ascertained, though not without some difficulty, that sixty years ago a young man of that name obtained great celebrity by *vaudevilles* and other trifling pieces; and that he subsequently became one of the greatest purveyors of such articles to the different theatres all through the time of the Empire; also that he was a most voluminous writer of novels. His family having been applied to, stated that not fewer than 200 dramatic pieces, and upwards of thirty volumes of novels, were produced by his indefatigable pen. In his plays, Potier, Odry, Brunet, Vernet, and other eminent comedians, made their *débuts*; Cherubini, Zimmerman, Boildieu, and other composers, accepted his *libretti*; whilst as to his novels, they were literally devoured by all France. He was, in short, for a time considered the greatest literary genius of his day, and was worshipped accordingly. Yet of all the vast mass that he wrote, not a word, not a line remains:—it has all passed as completely from memory as if it had been written in sand.

In reply to a question of Mr. J. L. Ricardo, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated in the House this week that a bill had been prepared on the subject of the Newspaper Stamp Duties, but that its introduction had been postponed in order to allow time for further inquiries as to the effects of the reduction of the advertisement duty. As there are several cases remaining for adjudication, and general uncertainty continues on the subject, it is to be desired that as little further delay as possible should take place. At all events, it is unseemly that a matter of so much public and national importance as the definition of a newspaper, and the legality of publication, should remain, like the copyright claims of the national library, in the jurisdiction of common police courts. If the proposed bill cannot be speedily brought in, the pending cases ought to be removed from Bow-street to the Court of Exchequer for decision.

Touissant Louverture, the negro hero who so nobly distinguished himself by his resistance to the attempt of the French to impose their yoke on his country, Saint Domingo, and who was carried to France and confined in a dungeon till he died—this noted man must now be included in the list of modern authors. A work has just been published containing memoirs of his life, written by him when in the fortress of Joux, in France. They were principally destined to be placed before the First Consul Bonaparte. They contain a full account of the remarkable events in which he figured, and a complete refutation of the false and scandalous charges which Bonaparte caused to be brought against him, as a pretext for keeping him in confinement. They are written with much simplicity and feeling, combined with a certain degree of dignity.

The anniversary festival of the Literary Fund was celebrated on Wednesday, with greater *éclat* than has been experienced for many years. So numerous was the attendance that the tables had to be packed transversely, and a second gallery erected for ladies. Mr. Disraeli gave a long and elaborate history of the Institution, and vindicated in glowing terms the sound and delicate principles upon which its funds are administered. Among the speakers of chief interest were Lord Stanley, Professor Aytoun, and Mr. Justice Haliburton (Sam Slick), and the interest inspired on this occasion in favour of this long-established and noble charity was of unusual warmth.

A Russian historian and novelist of considerable note, Theodore Andrieowitch von Oettinger, has just died at St. Petersburg. He is likewise known as the translator of English, French, and German plays, and has left behind him a valuable collection of 4000 dramatic pieces. The principal actor of Russia, Wassil Andrieowitch Karatagon, has also just died.

Amongst the more pleasing examples of figure composition in the Exhibition not already alluded to, though on a small scale, is Mr. Dyce's *Jacob and Rachel* (140), which, though a reproduction of a subject that appeared a few years ago, is again welcome and attractive. Mr. Selous's *Rustle of the Tapestry* (169), though full of thought, and therefore attracting the attention and rousing the curiosity, unhappily does not quite satisfy it. If the intention of the artist were to leave us in a feeling of vague uncertainty and excitement, his success is complete, and the description in the catalogue leaves us just where we were. There is a weakness, moreover, about some of the purple or violet shades which we should scarcely expect from the painter. Mr. Charles Landseer's very complete and impressive *Iron Mask* (217) has been already too fully noticed to require further description. It is decidedly one of the 'points' of the Exhibition. Larger space than we can afford would be required to enter fully into the merits and the defects of Mr. Goodall's scene from the days of *Charles I.* (218.) The group will be studied and admired, there is no doubt; but there is yet a strain and appearance of display about the composition, as if the figures were placed there to be looked at and painted from, which destroys that very feeling of ease and *abandon* upon which the sentiment of the piece depends. Mr. Solomon's brilliant and successful picture, *Brunetta and Phillis* (470), has also been already described. Mr. Cope's *The Page* (479) is painted in a clear objective style, and as to composition in the fresco manner of treatment. A group, close by, of *Sophia and Olivia* (480), by T. Faed, appears to be one of the attractions of the Exhibition. There is much superficial display about the dress and attitude of the ladies, and a good deal of similar glitter in the broken and flashing lights; still there is novelty and success in the result. Mr. Rankley's group of *Dr. Watts and his Young Friends* (499) suffers painfully from a hardness of manner and heaviness of touch which detract from a scene of not much originality, but one that is always agreeable. A large historical picture, *The Death of Thomas à Becket* (582), by Cross, deserves a fuller discussion than our space allows us to bestow; it contains much to study and admire. A somewhat theatrical study, describing *Metastasio Singing Verses in the Streets of Rome* (608), by M'Innes, is impressive from its construction as well as painting; the foreground and distance are indicated by groups of figures in a formal but perfectly scientific manner. A passing remark is all that can be bestowed upon the composition, unusual to English eyes, entitled *La Fé et la Péri* (1056), by E. Signol. It will not be highly popular, and the solidity of the aerial forms, which successfully defy the force of gravitation, is an insuperable shock to our matter-of-fact ideas. Mrs. Ward's *Young May Queen* (1071) is firmly painted, with a dash of the new style of colouring about it, which is not too prominent. Close adjoining, a very charming

piece of flesh colouring, if not too uniform, is exhibited in *The Toilet* (1081), by W. D. Kennedy. J. D. Watson's *Artist's Studio* (1216) is a very careful and quietly treated cabinet picture; and though last, not least, Mr. Hannah's *Tête-à-tête* (1224) is of a firmness, accuracy, and finish which are rather an advance than otherwise upon his similar scenes of last year. Amongst the single figures and smaller groups, Mr. Hunt's *Claudio and Isabella* (44), with all its monstrosities of taste in composition, is a wonderful specimen of painting and colour, as are also the sheep in the still more eccentric *English Consts* (534). A figure of a child and dog, named *Florence and Boatswain* (76), by J. C. Horsley, is very successful as to the painting of the child, though neither the animal nor its mistress are quite the characters of Dickens's story. Mr. Patten's *Cordelia* (111) is a very happy embodiment of that unfortunate lady's resigned grief and chastened sorrow on hearing of the woes of her house. Mr. C. Baxter's *Polly Peachum* (214), on the other hand, is a pretty young woman, of apparently free manners, and there is nothing more to assist in an identification which without the title would be difficult. The next that strikes the eye in order is Mr. Collins's figure (346), with a quotation from the 'Christian Year.' It is wonderfully well painted. The essence of preconcived fanaticism is most happily sublimed and exhibited here. The child is clearly predestined to become a lady abdess or a martyr. Mr. Stirling's *Lassie and Lamb* (497), Mr. Hunt's queer *New College Cloisters* (554), and Mr. Rainford's *Celia and Rosalind* (1288), further present themselves to the admirers of mediæval aspects of nature and humanity. A line should be here devoted to commemorate Mr. Andsell's picture of the *Sick Lamb* (395), which ranks very high as to expression in various points. The story speaks for itself; the manner of its telling must commend it to all. Mr. Cooper's *Cattle* (292) are also careful and successful as ever. Of the landscapes, Mr. Cooke's *Vices of Venice* (143, 282, and 293) are among the gems of the collection in point of accuracy and colour. Amidst the unequaledness of this artist's productions, these must be welcomed as exquisite and perfect renderings of scenery particularly inviting to art representation. The novelty of feeling as to atmosphere, effects of distance, cool waters, and warm air, reflected sunshine, and light-penetrated sea, which we observe in the second of these (282) particularly, would seem to show that the natural glories of Venice are inexhaustible. Mr. Redgrave's forest scenery this year (182, 340, and 541) is a continuation upon the studies of last, as to its masses of green foliage, which have attained a greater freedom and variety, and show striking proficiency in this particular branch of art. J. Linnell, in three landscapes (452, 580, and 1083), sustains, but does not show an advance upon his former achievements. The second will probably be the favourite of these three. J. Wilson, jun., Jutsum, F. Danby, S. R. Percy, Hering, and W. Oliver, have all contributed excellent works, but not beyond their usual style of manner and execution. J. Danby's *Chillon* (168) is an exception, in its fine sense of solitude and desolation. Niemann is again distinguished for his landscape, with its peculiar characteristics (16); and Harding's *View of Beilstein* (610) has all his characteristic richness and fascination of drawing. Mr. G. Lear's *View of Syracuse from the Ancient Quarries* (1062) has novelty, character, and force about the execution independently of the interest of the scene, and its mode of treatment, which are highly to be admired; and amongst the lesser productions of merit we notice *A Farmyard Bit* (81), by J. Dearman; *View near Paracombe, N. Devon* (115), by F. Turner; *Devoch Water* (202), by W. J. Blacklock; *View of the Round Tower of Clondalkin* (462), by R. Tonge; *My Garden Door* (463), by R. Leslie, jun.; *An English Farm* (1252), by Pasmore; a somewhat elaborately 'made up' scene on the *North Coast of Devon* (1261), by Syer; and a very quiet and charming *Cottage* (1271), by C. Ward. Besides the portraits already briefly alluded to, Mr. Desanges' *Lady Bolton* (138) is pre-eminent for a

peculiar class of merits, namely, those which reproduce the effects of beauty aided by all the resources of refinement and rich dress. W. Gush's *Portrait of Mrs. Mills* (108), occupying an equally prominent position, perhaps errs on the side of an affected freedom of attitude. Mr. Pickersgill's *Madame Delpierre* (123) is in his usual style, and not far off Grant's *Dr. Moberly* (175) is very vivid and life-like. His *Lord Campbell* (284) and *Duke of Portland* (376) are no less excellent. Swinton's *Lady de Blaquiere* (271) possesses all his merits and some of his defects; and it is to be regretted that so much skill and feeling for the splendid and gorgeous in art should be accompanied by an appearance of the ennui which often shares the sentiment in real life. George Dawson, Esq. (429), by Knight, is one of the most successful portraits in the collection, not overwrought, whilst highly expressive. An unpretending picture of the *Artist's Mother* (406), by a lady, Emma Vessel, distinguishes itself for expression, and an attractive subject is presented in C. Jacquard's *Miss Eliza Seymour* (422). A portrait also of *Dr. Samuel Phillips* (566), painted in a broad style by Newenham, has a force and fidelity of expression to which we are most happy to bear testimony. Amongst the miniatures, Mr. Thorburn is supreme, and amongst his contributions the palm must be awarded to *Lady Constance Grosvenor* (738), a work of great beauty. The *Labourers Children* (776), *Miss Brown* (700), and *Mrs. Sidney Herbert and Two Children* (825), are of an excellence scarcely inferior. An enamel of *Flora, after Titian* (631), by W. Essex, is a favourable specimen of the artist's skill; and amongst a group of adjoining portraits, that of *Professor Edward Forbes, F.R.S.* (649), has been rendered in enamel by H. P. Bone, with a success scarcely adequate to the requirements of a name so distinguished in science and literature. The portrait department of the exhibition, however, must this year be pronounced generally deficient, as in merit, so also, happily, in quantity, in comparison with past years.

Civilization is spreading—Helsingfors, the capital of Finland, at the north-western extremity of the Russian Empire, has now an "Exhibition of the Fine Arts." It consists of only fifty-two paintings, and nearly forty of them have been supplied by the young ladies of the town and neighbourhood. It will therefore hardly stand comparison with the exhibitions of Western Europe; but considering that until recently so little of the arts of design was known in Finland that even the sign-boards had to be painted abroad, the show, however modest, does credit to the people.

A Berlin letter announces that the great painter, Cornelius, has left that city for Rome, to undertake for the King a "commission which requires a genius of his high order" to execute. It is not stated what the commission is.

The New Philharmonic Society's concert on Wednesday evening was a brilliant and successful one. Dr. Wyld's new music to Milton's *Paradise Lost* formed a chief feature of the concert, and the reception the work received from the audience was such as testified high appreciation of its merit. Some of the airs and choruses are very superior, and in the recitatives and the music throughout, Dr. Wyld has striven to rise with his harmony to the height of Milton's great argument. A soprano solo, 'For spirits when they please,' and a chorus in B flat minor, 'Farewell, happy fields,' particularly commanded the applause of the assembly. As a composer of feeling and taste Dr. Wyld's reputation is established by this work. Miss Goddard's performance of Mr. Sterndale Bennett's pianoforte concerto was deservedly admired. In the absence of Herr Pischek, Herr Staudigl was one of the chief vocalists. Mozart's overture to *Zauberflöte*, Weber's *Oberon*, and Rossini's *La Gazza Ladra*, were among the pieces of the attractive programme. Herr Lindpaintner conducted with his usual tact and ability.

At M. Holzel's concert, Mlle. Clauss, Herr Nabich, and Mlle. Anna Zerr assisted, and at Miss Arabella Goddard's, last night, Messrs. Hill, Sain-

ton, Piatti, and Bottesini were to perform. The third of the Quartett Association was distinguished chiefly by a quartett of Ferdinand Ries, and a duet of Mendelssohn's, charmingly executed by Mlle. Clauss and Piatti.

The fifth of the Philharmonic Society's concerts takes place on Monday, when Mendelssohn's *Sinfonia in A*, and Beethoven's in F, No. 8, are to be given, also a violin concerto in D minor, by M. Vieuxtemps, Mozart's *Figaro* overture, Spohr's *Jessonda*, and Handel's *Ether*.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ASTRONOMICAL.—Feb. 11th.—Obituary continued.

—Thomas Colby, born at Rochester on the 1st of September, 1784, was a son of Major Colby of the Royal Marines, who served during the war, and was in several engagements under Lord Howe and other naval commanders; he had four uncles in the army, one of whom, General Hadden, was Surveyor-general of the Ordnance, and another, Colonel Hadden, of the 11th Regiment, was Paymaster-general of the Forces in Portugal. Thomas Colby was educated at Northfleet, Kent, by the late Dr. Crackell, a man fully capable of appreciating the superior abilities of his pupil; from this school he proceeded to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and after having been selected for, and appointed to, the corps of Royal Engineers, was placed under Mr. Robert Dawson, of the corps of Royal Military Surveyors and Draftsmen, then employed on the Ordnance Survey of Cornwall, for the purpose of being instructed in surveying and military drawing. At this time he met with an accident, by the bursting of a pistol, which deprived him of his left hand, and very nearly cost him his life, as a part of the barrel entered his head. This accident had an important bearing on his future career; the loss of the hand was a serious hindrance and objection to military service, but Major Mudge, the Superintendent of the Trigonometrical Survey, knowing Lieut. Colby's qualifications, with great kindness and consideration applied immediately to the Master-general of the Ordnance, that he might be permanently attached to the survey as an assistant to himself, in the same way that he had formerly been to his predecessor, Lieut.-Colonel Williams, R.A. Having been appointed second lieutenant on the 21st of December, 1801, when a little more than seventeen years of age, and posted to the survey in January, 1802, he was for many years employed, during the summer and autumn months, in observing at various stations, with the great theodolite and zenith sector (both constructed by Ramsden), for the principal triangulation and the measurement of the arc of meridian between the Shetland Isles and Isle of Wight; and during the rest of the year was engaged at the Drawing-room in the Tower of London, in roughly computing the results of the summer's observations and preparing them for publication, and in superintending the construction and engraving of the Ordnance Maps of England and Wales, on the scale of one inch to a mile, or $\frac{1}{62500}$; meanwhile, he was made a first-lieutenant in August, 1802, and captain in July, 1807. He assisted, and was associated with, Lieut.-Colonel Mudge, in preparing the third volume of 'An Account of the Trigonometrical Survey of England,' which was published in 1811; and on Major-General Mudge's death, in 1820, he was appointed by his Grace the Duke of Wellington to succeed him as Superintendent of the Trigonometrical Survey, having been strongly recommended by the President of the Royal Society, Sir Joseph Banks, to whom the Duke referred for his opinion of Captain Colby's scientific qualifications for the appointment. He obtained his majority by brevet in July 1821, and in this and the two following years we find him associated with Captain Kater, appointed by the Royal Society to co-operate with MM. Arago and Mathieu, acting in behalf of the Institute of France, in the verification of the connexion between the observatories of Greenwich and Paris; the English portion of the triangulation for this purpose had been originally executed by Major-General Ross, and was now revised by

Captain Kater and Major Colby, who both personally assisted in making the observations; and Major Colby afforded the aid of Mr. James Gardner, one of the most experienced observers on the survey. In 1824 the survey of Ireland was commenced, after a careful investigation before a select committee of the House of Commons as to the best method of proceeding with such survey, its nature, scale, and the details it should embrace; and on the recommendation of that committee its execution was entrusted to the Ordnance Department, and confided by the Master-general of the Ordnance, the Duke of Wellington, to Major Colby's charge. This survey being intended to facilitate a general valuation of property throughout Ireland, with a view to apportioning more equally the local taxation, was required to be so precise that the accuracy of its details should be unquestioned; on the other hand, the cost of the survey was to be kept within reasonable limits. Major Colby, therefore, wisely determined not to adopt the system of working by contract, then followed in England, in the preparation of the Ordnance Map of England and Wales, but to make the survey of Ireland depend on actual measurements with the chain, based on a very complete principal, secondary, and minor triangulation, carried out so minutely as to include the fixation of a trigonometrical point for about every 400 acres. In executing this plan he devised and arranged so complete a system of operations, and subdivided the survey into so many distinct branches, proceeding from, but serving as a check on, each other, that he was ultimately enabled to avail himself of the natural aptitude and intelligence of the lower orders of the Irish to form the great mass of the *employees* on the survey, whose number at one period exceeded 2000 persons, mostly from the native population. In 1825 Major Colby obtained the Duke of Wellington's permission to have three companies of Royal Sappers and Miners raised and trained to assist in carrying on the survey of Ireland, so as to make the work essentially military in its organization: the whole cost of these three companies, containing 105 men each, who could at once be made available for the ordinary military service of the country, was to be defrayed out of the Parliamentary votes annually sanctioned for the purposes of the survey. In 1825 Colonel Colby selected Major (then Lieut.) Larcom, R.E., as the executive officer for the Irish Survey, head-quarter office at Mountjoy Barracks, in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, to superintend the engraving, to ensure the various branches of the work being carried on in complete union with each other, and to collect a perfect record of everything that occurred, so that every document required to establish the authenticity of the work should be carefully preserved; and it is doubtful if anything could exert the admirable manner in which all these objects were effected. The preliminary difficulties being once got over, and the injudicious attempt to substitute speed for accuracy finally abandoned in 1832, the progress of the survey became considerably accelerated, and the publication of the first county (Londonderry), which took place in May 1833, was rapidly succeeded by that of others. The observations for the principal triangulation in Ireland, with the exception of the stations connected with and in the immediate vicinity of the Lough Foyle Base, were almost entirely taken by Lieutenant-Colonel (then Lieutenant) Portlock, R.E., who also had the charge of the secondary and minor triangulation, and the computations for the supply of distances and altitudes; but that officer was subsequently appointed to conduct the geological branch of the Survey, whilst its execution formed part of the duties entrusted to the Ordnance in Ireland. When Colonel Colby had succeeded in perfecting all the arrangements connected with the Irish Survey, he next turned his attention to the steps required for improving the accuracy of the one-inch map of England and Wales. Of the work already executed at least two-thirds had been done under the contract system, the surveyors employed being paid at a certain rate for every square mile of ground, for which they prepared a finished manuscript plan; and as no means existed of checking the accuracy

of such plans, except by examining the correctness of the detail on the ground, it was found that after the plans had been sent in to the Drawing-room in the Tower, as complete in all respects, very extensive examinations and revisions were generally necessary before they could with safety be traced and transferred to the copper-plates for engraving. In 1833, we find that Sir Henry (then Mr.) De la Beche made a proposal to the Government to undertake the publication of a geological map of the counties of Devon and Cornwall, and after some consideration it was finally arranged that the Ordnance Survey Department, under Colonel Colby, in conjunction with Sir H. De la Beche, should undertake the work; the Ordnance obtaining the necessary funds from Parliament for its execution, and Sir H. De la Beche being responsible for the geological information engraved on the Ordnance maps under Colonel Colby's direction. The connexion thus established continued up to the year 1845, when the geological survey was transferred to the department of Woods and Forests (a considerable extent of country besides the counties of Devon and Cornwall having, in the intermediate period, been geologised and published), and it has since received a very considerable increase of strength under its able chief; the engraving is still executed by the Ordnance, but the cost is charged against the Woods and Forests. Colonel Colby was endowed with great administrative qualities. Possessed of a very sound judgment and great energy of character, and conscientiously alive to the consequences of failing to carry out the great work with which he had been entrusted, in a manner creditable to the country and to the department to which he belonged, he never hesitated to put before the authorities under whom he served his views as to what should or should not be done, and the reasons for it: and these views were usually expressed in very clear and explicit terms. He allowed no selfish considerations to interfere with the direct line of his duty: for instance, having obtained power from the Master-general of the Ordnance to retain only such officers of Engineers as he found well adapted for carrying on the peculiar duty on which they were engaged, he did not scruple to ask for such officers as he considered most likely to advance the work he had in hand, and to return to the ordinary duties of the corps those whose pursuits or talents were not likely to further the progress of the work. As an instance of his energy and self-reliance, it may be seen by reference to the returns connected with the Irish Survey presented to Parliament, that after he had fully succeeded, in 1835, in getting his system into perfect working order, and when finished plans of the country were annually completed, to the extent of between two and three millions of acres, he did not hesitate, year after year, to take upon himself the responsibility of exceeding, by large sums, the votes sanctioned by Parliament, rather than to diminish the rate of expenditure and progress by discharging efficient assistants, which reduction would necessarily have had the effect of deferring the final completion of the work for a longer period of time. On the completion of the plans of the Irish Survey, he endeavoured to procure for a few of the officers of Engineers employed under him, whose services he considered to be fully entitled to it, the ordinary mark of military approbation, viz. a step of rank by brevet promotion, that their exertions might thus be recognised in the corps to which they belonged; but he was unsuccessful in his efforts, although the then Master-general of the Ordnance (the late Lord Vivian) fully admitted those services, and apparently only deferred compliance with the recommendation till the engraving should be complete, coupling the recognition of those services with the more pre-eminent ones of the chief under whom they served; and it certainly is to be regretted that this decision should have been permitted by the Ordnance department to be final, at all events as regards Colonel Colby himself, as it is certain that no work executed by the Ordnance during the present century has reflected so much credit on the department as the successful completion of the Ordnance Survey

of Ireland, which, in addition to completely serving the purpose for which it was undertaken, has already been used for the following public purposes:—It has formed the basis of the Poor-law Boundaries in detail, determining the localities called Electoral Divisions, according to which the Poor-law assessment is made; it has served for the Poor-law Valuation, which includes Tenements, and which is distinct from the Townland or General Valuation, of all Ireland; it has been used as a means of obtaining an accurate annual return, at very small expense, of every variety of agricultural produce in Ireland; it has been made the basis for the Irish Census, and employed in the sale of property, the boundaries of the fields and farms sold being laid down on the map, and accurately coloured, each map being subsequently enrolled, so that at any future time the property sold can be traced on the map, and from it identified on the ground; it has further been employed in carrying out the provisions of the Land Improvement Act; and last, but not least, it has greatly facilitated the task of preparing and carrying on, in the most economical manner, the various engineering works executed in that country. General Colby was an original Member of the Astronomical Society, and one of the Committee appointed to frame rules and regulations for its government, at its formation in 1820. He was also appointed a Member of the Board of Longitude in 1822, and continued to act in that capacity until the Board was dissolved, by Act of Parliament, in 1828. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh; of the Geological and Geographical Societies of London; a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, and of the Geological Society of Dublin; an LL.D. of Aberdeen; and a Knight of Denmark. Major Colby was promoted to Lieut.-Colonel in July, 1825; to Colonel in January, 1837; and to Major-General in November, 1846. He married in 1828, Eliza H., second daughter of Archibald Boyd, Esq., of Londonderry, and died on the 9th October, 1852, at Liverpool, in the 69th year of his age, leaving his wife and seven children (four boys and three girls) to lament the irreparable loss they have sustained.*

George Dollond, F.R.S. &c., was born in London on the 25th of January, 1774, and having the misfortune to lose his father when very young, his education and subsequent management devolved upon his maternal uncle, Peter Dollond, who was then carrying on the business in St. Paul's Church-yard, to which the nephew ultimately succeeded, (on which he took the name of Dollond, his father's name having been Huggins.) Accordingly he was placed at an early age at the seminary conducted by the late Mr. George Lloyd, at Kennington, then celebrated for the able manner in which his pupils were prepared for their different positions in the world. He was not, however, long allowed the benefit of his instruction, for early in the year 1787 he was sent to the manufactory of Mr. Fairbone, to learn the trade of a mathematical-instrument maker, and in March, 1788, commenced an apprenticeship to the business for which his family were so famed. There is scarcely anything found in his early years worthy of record, with the exception of the great assiduity with which he applied himself to obtain a mastery of his chosen profession, and the narrow escape he had in 1792 of closing his career from a severe attack of illness, which threatened for a long time to have a fatal termination. Recovered from his illness, and having passed safely through the remainder of his apprenticeship, we next find him on his own account assisting the business of his uncles with his talents and labour, and for a considerable time the whole of the mathematical department of that establishment was the production of his manufactory. The death of his uncle John Dollond, in 1804, a younger brother and partner of Peter Dollond, caused a change in his affairs, for it being found necessary to fill up the gap occasioned by that untimely event, he was immediately selected by his uncle for the post, and in November, 1805, he assumed

*The memoir of Colonel Colby is necessarily much condensed for insertion in our columns.

the position he was fated so long and so honourably to fulfil, both in conjunction with his uncle, until the latter's retirement in 1819, and afterwards on his own account, until the termination of his career. It is unnecessary to enumerate the many instruments by which he maintained the celebrity of his establishment, but the Atmospheric Recorder deserves some notice, as being the closing effort of his long life, and as having obtained for it the reward of the Council Medal of the Great Exhibition of 1851. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on December 23, 1814, and contributed various papers, which were published in the 'Philosophical Transactions.' But it is by his connexion with the Royal Astronomical Society that George Dollond will be mostly recognised, for in the course of his long life he was honoured with the friendship of many of the most illustrious representatives of science; and in one of the social gatherings arising out of these intimate relations the formation of the Astronomical Society was proposed. These few lovers of astronomical science formed the nucleus of this body, and it was by their instrumentality and exertions that a Royal Charter was obtained for it, and it was raised to the eminent position which we see it maintaining at the present time. Few of his fellow-labourers in that undertaking survive him; many were removed before the valuable results of their efforts could be known; but he to the last was most indefatigable in the interest he took in the advancement of the Society, and was a constant attendant at its meetings or its council table, until declining strength warned him that the all-powerful mind must at length become subservient to the failings of the flesh, and that a more secluded field of action must for the future be his portion. He lived but a short time in retirement, for the feebleness that had compelled him to resign the management of public business gradually increased upon him, until, on the 13th of May, 1852, at the age of seventy-eight, he passed away with scarcely a struggle from a circle he had adorned, leaving behind to posterity an unsullied reputation and an honoured name.

The Rev. Charles Turnor, M.A., F.R.S., was born in Lincolnshire, on the 10th of August, 1768. He was many years vicar of Wendover, in Buckinghamshire. In the year 1818, he was collated to the prebendal stall of Sutton-in-the-Marsh, in the cathedral church of Lincoln. Mr. Turnor was descended from a family of that name of long standing, of Stoke Rochford, and Penton House, in the county of Lincoln. Among his ancestors were Sir Christopher Turnor, one of the Barons of Exchequer, in the year 1650, whose portrait is in Guildhall, as one of the judges appointed to assess the damages occasioned by the great fire of London; and his brother, Sir Edmund Turnor, paymaster to the forces in the reign of Charles I., who was taken prisoner at the battle of Worcester, in 1651. The property of Sir Isaac Newton, about three miles from Stoke Rochford, was purchased by the family about four years after Newton's death, and its integrity remains much the same as in Sir Isaac's time. This led Mr. Charles Turnor, during a series of years, to make a valuable collection of all he could find connected with the illustrious philosopher. Mr. Turnor died on the 12th of January, 1853. In private life he was beloved and respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Besides being a liberal patron of science, he was a clever artist and an excellent connoisseur of all objects of taste and *virtù*. The interest which Mr. Turnor felt in the progress of science, more especially astronomy, is amply evinced by his valuable donations to various scientific institutions. In 1836, he presented to our Society a work edited by his brother, Edmund Turnor, entitled "Collections for the History of the Town and Soke of Grantham," which, among other matters of interest, contained some authentic memorials of Newton, published for the first time from original MSS. in the possession of the Earl of Portsmouth. In 1845, he also presented two MS. volumes of Astronomical Tables, executed in the fourteenth century. An account of these curious manuscripts, drawn up by Mr. Harris, the late assistant-secretary of

the Society, is inserted in volume xv. of the *Memoirs*. Among the benefactions of Mr. Turner to the Society, may be also mentioned the marble bust of Newton, which adorns the meeting-room. In 1846, Mr. Turner presented to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, an astronomical clock, with gridiron pendulum, by Mudge and Dutton, which was used for some time in connexion with Troughton's mural circle, and which is now in constant use in connexion with the reflex zenith tube of that establishment. The Council have to announce that Mr. Turner has bequeathed to the Society the sum of 500*l.* three per cent. consols, to be laid out in books for the library. As the news of this legacy is very recent, the Council are not prepared to state the precise mode in which they will proceed to carry into effect the testator's intention. In all probability it will be advisable to form a fund, which will, of course, bear Mr. Turner's name, the interest of which will be regularly laid out in increasing the library; and, it may be, part of the principal, from time to time, as advantageous opportunities shall occur. By the liberality of authors and institutions, the Society receives almost all new books of astronomy as fast as they appear; and those who know the market of older books are aware that it would be almost impossible to spend 500*l.* to real advantage in a very short time. The perfectly open manner in which this legacy is left, as to mode of proceeding, is, and should be felt as, an additional benefit. It is understood that Mr. Turner has also made a bequest to the Royal Society, which includes some interesting memorials of the illustrious Newton.

The following Fellows were elected Officers and Council for the ensuing year:—*President*, G. B. Airy, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., Astronomer Royal. *Vice-Presidents*, J. C. Adams, Esq., M.A., F.R.S.; Arthur Kett Barclay, Esq.; Rev. George Fisher, M.A., F.R.S.; Rev. Robert Main, M.A. *Treasurer*, George Bishop, Esq., F.R.S. *Secretaries*, Augustus de Morgan, Esq.; Captain R. H. Mannors, R.N. *Foreign Secretary*, John Russell Hind, Esq. *Council*, Captain F. Blackwood, R.N.; Rev. Thos. Pelham Dale, M.A.; George Dollond, Esq.; Warren De la Rue, Esq., F.R.S.; James Glaisher, Esq., F.R.S.; Robert Grant, Esq.; John Lee, Esq., LL.D., F.R.S.; Lieut. Henry Raper, R.N.; William Rutherford, Esq., LL.D.; Captain W. H. Smyth, R.N., K.S.F., D.C.L., F.R.S.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—*April 8th*.—Sir Charles Fellows, Vice-President, in the chair. Rev. W. Taylor, F.R.S., 'Observations on different Modes of Educating the Blind.' The lecturer, feeling that he was working in the cause of the blind, hoped that the importance of the subject would atone, in some degree at least, for the imperfect manner in which he should bring it before his audience; and that his want of skill as a lecturer would not injure the great cause, which he had for more than thirty years laboured to promote. He feared that what he had to say would appear very unconnected, as he had to make a selection from a large number of facts, statements, and personal observations. He would not trouble his hearers with any remarks on the physiology of vision, as his object was to compensate as far as possible for the loss of it. Nor would he enter into the history of the education of the blind, nor of the various schools and asylums established for them in different countries; but he could not omit to state that France had the great merit of having established the first school for the blind, which was founded by Valentine Haüy, at Paris, in the year 1784. This example some seven or eight years after was followed by Liverpool, Bristol, London, &c. But it is supposed that there are more schools, &c., for the blind in the different German states than in all the known world besides. Parents who may unfortunately have a blind child, often look upon it as a heavy affliction, and one that may embitter the remainder of their lives. They sometimes regard their poor sightless offspring as a being scarcely endowed with intelligence and incapable of learning anything. Should they be *rich*, their child is pro-

bably indulged, and everything done for it which it might do for itself; and thus, through mistaken kindness, it is doomed to a life of useless dependence. Should they be *poor*, their necessities often compel them to neglect their child, and its usual fate is to sit in a chair moving its limbs in various directions, frequently making grimaces, and uttering sounds scarcely intelligible. But if parents would read the long list of those blind persons who have become not only useful but valuable and ornamental members of society, they would derive much consolation, and be encouraged to regard with resignation and composure their little blind charge, and watch with affectionate interest the development of its mental and bodily powers; and should it hereafter distinguish itself, as so many have done, how sweet would then be the reward for all their parental care and anxieties. That the blind, like others, as rational beings, have a claim to be educated, is beyond a doubt. But the amount of education they are capable of must depend upon many things. Till within about sixty or seventy years the blind were thought incapable of learning anything; now, however, experience has shown that there is scarcely any branch of education beyond their reach. All blind persons, except idiots, may be taught enough to lessen their affliction, if not to make them useful and happy. It was also thought that this portion of instruction could be acquired only in institutions for the blind, where helps and tools adapted to their case are provided; but now they are better understood, they may be *partially*, if not *wholly*, educated in their own family circle; and through the help of various ingenious contrivances used in teaching the blind, the difference between them and those who see is reduced almost to a minimum. The blind may be divided into various classes, thus:—such as are born blind, those who have become blind in after life, those who are totally blind, and those who have a glimmer of sight. These may again be subdivided into males and females, young and old, rich and poor, and, lastly, such as are deaf and dumb as well as blind. Those who are *born blind* are very few indeed. Most who are thought to be so have lost their sight soon after birth, generally from inflammation brought on either from careless or injudicious exposure to the light or cold; but now, from the improved manner of treating this disease, it does not so often terminate in blindness as it formerly did. Moreover, the facility of procuring medical aid by the poor, in such cases, is much greater than it was some years ago, and they are more inclined to seek it. These, together with the introduction of vaccination, have greatly lessened the proportion of those who are blind to those who see, not only in this country, but also in many others; so that, from some statistical inquiries made in Austria, Prussia, the canton of Zurich, &c., the blind in those localities may be about one in 1500 or 1600, and in England perhaps less. In Egypt it is said to be very much greater—even one in 200.* Those who are born blind, or have become so in infancy, are generally more resigned to their fate, and more happy than such as have lost their sight after having had some years' enjoyment of it. The one does not know the extent of his privation,—the other is constantly drawing unfavourable comparisons between his present and his former lot. However, blind persons of all classes are generally found to be cheerful, docile, eager for knowledge, and, for the most part, happy. Those who possess a glimmer of sight, sufficient to enable them to avoid posts and other obstacles, are useful in an institution, as guides to others, but their small portion of vision is seldom of any use to them in learning a trade, &c. On the Continent, and in some English schools, the proportion of males to females is nearly as two to one. This arises perhaps from boys being more exposed to accidents than girls, in their occupations, &c. There are many more ways of gaining a livelihood open to the males than to the females, they are, therefore,

* Volney says, "of every hundred you meet in the streets of Cairo twenty will be blind and thirty more with defective sight."

more easily provided for, when they leave an institution. They may learn basket-making, weaving, rope-making, working in wire, making door mats, cutting files, grinding colours, &c., carpentry, turning, cutting and polishing glass, marble, &c., making leather and list shoes, bottoming chairs, coopering, making fishing and other nets, sawing wood, &c.; while the females do little more than knit, sew, spin, net, crochet, plait hair, straw, &c., make sash-cord, fringe, paper boxes for jewellers, hatters, druggists, &c.; they should be taught household work, &c. All may learn to read embossed characters and to write. For the blind, especially the females, who are incapable of working, from age or otherwise, an additional number of asylums is much needed, in which they could be supported, and secured against the evils to which their misfortune exposes them, when unfriended and unprotected. There is also much wanted a college or school for the blind of the wealthier classes, where they would be educated amongst those of their own rank in life. If such an institution were once established and properly officered, there is no doubt of its being well supported, as there are many parents who would not object to pay liberally for the advantage of having their blind children regularly educated in an establishment of that kind. There they would have the opportunity of being instructed in the various branches of knowledge; for languages, history, geography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mechanics, and all sciences depending upon the mathematics, as well as natural history, music, poetry, chemistry, and metaphysics, are within their reach, as has been proved by Blacklock, Baczko, Knie, Sanderson, Weissenburg, Huber, Gough, Paradies, Milton, Moyes, Pfeffel, Käferle, and many others. Modelling in clay, wax, &c., and sculpture, carving in wood, and even engraving, have all been accomplished by the blind. Amusements, such as chess and other games, are also most desirable for them, as they feel a delight in not being dependent upon the seeing either for their employments or their pleasures. The poorer blind should have some mental cultivation as well as mechanical, for a certain quantity of the former makes the acquirement of the latter more easy. All blind persons would derive great advantage from being well drilled in arithmetic. It is an admirable exercise for the mind—enables them to arrange their ideas, furnishes them with amusement, and renders them more apt at acquiring other kinds of information. There is another class of our fellow creatures who have a large claim upon our sympathy and benevolence—those who, in addition to their blindness, are deaf and dumb. One of the most remarkable of these is Laura Bridgeman, of Boston, in America, who has been some years under the care of the famous Dr. Howe, and whose case is related by Dr. Kitto in his book 'On the Lost Senses,' in which he states that she had acquired some knowledge not only of things around her, but also of God and religion. She writes a good hand, and expresses her ideas in language which would not disgrace one in possession of his five senses. There is a blind, deaf and dumb, in the workhouse at Rotherhithe, one at Bath, two at Lausanne, &c. There is a similar case at Bruges, under the care of that great friend to the blind, the Abbé Carton. When seen by the lecturer, she was about twenty-two years of age, had been in the school not a year, and yet had learned to knit even fancy work, although she had only three senses remaining. He gave her the letter O, embossed on a bit of card; she showed that she knew it, by making her mouth circular and drawing her finger round it. Other letters were variously designated. When she wanted coffee she imitated the grinding of it, by turning her hand as if she had the mill. The lecturer wished to see her knit. She objected to that as it was a saint's day, which she denoted by showing that she had her best clothes on, but if he would come on the morrow (which she signified by laying her head on her hand, as if on a pillow) she would knit for him, &c. In the school at St. John's Wood there is a blind and deaf man who as yet retains his speech. He knows when the master comes into the room either by feeling

the jar of his step or by his sense of smell. Communications are made to him by writing with the finger on his hand or back, and he very readily comprehends them. Here is a proof of the advantage of employing the common alphabet, for had he learned an arbitrary character very few could hold intercourse with him. "The object in educating the blind is to alleviate his misfortune; to afford him the means of acquiring knowledge by his own exertions; to develop his capabilities and make them useful; and to render his existence more agreeable—to reconcile him, as far as may be, to his fate, and to make him as much like his seeing brethren as possible. Instructors of the blind should be strictly moral, and heartily inclined, irrespective of trouble or reward, to promote the welfare of their pupils; they should have a fondness for children and for teaching—they should possess mildness, patience, kindness, sympathy, tranquillity, and perseverance, with a spirit of order and regularity. These are the moral principles or qualities to be desired in those who undertake the education of the blind. On the other hand they should have moderate learning, talent to impart it, and a certain acquaintance with the various branches of knowledge; for, as their pupils cannot refer to books, the teacher must be everything to them. It is easy to imagine that an educated blind person is the best teacher of the blind, in such things as in consequence of their not seeing require a peculiar mode of treatment, especially in mechanical operations." (Klein.) The Lecturer then explained some of the many ingenious contrivances used in teaching the blind. The first was a board of cork, with a few pins and a string, which he considers very useful. The pins are stuck into the cork at the angles of any straight-lined diagram, and the string passed round them, forming a figure which the blind can readily feel. If circles are wanted, they may be made of wire, or cut in pasteboard, &c. The next was a mariner's compass without the glass, in order that the blind may feel the needle. After it has stood long enough to take its proper direction, it is fixed in that position by a small lever that lifts it up against the rim, which is in diameter a little less than the length of the needle. This is very useful to the blind in going about by themselves in the country. The Lecturer then explained a small chess-board, with crooked pins for the men, by which the blind can play at chess with a person having the common board. Each can be considering his game without interrupting the other, as the blind has no occasion to touch his adversary's board; of course each must name his move, which the other copies. Printing in embossed letters was next explained, and a blind girl of about 18, from the school at St. George's, readily deciphered a sentence printed by the Lecturer with a pen and thick ink. This tends to prove that the letters need not be in very high relief, and forms an easy means of communicating with them. She also read from a book embossed in the common Roman alphabet: and afterwards, a young man, from the school at St. John's Wood, read from Lucas's stenographic characters, and also the Roman capitals and small letters. The Lecturer said that much difference of opinion existed as to the best alphabet for the blind, some advocating an arbitrary character, some the Roman letters, and some a modification of one of them; but that he himself preferred the common Roman alphabet, capitals and small letters, and that he was supported in his opinion by Klein, of Vienna; Dr. Zeune, of Berlin; Knie, of Breslau (himself blind, and director of the school in that town); Jäger, of Gmünd; Bacsko (blind), &c., all of whom had from thirty to fifty years' experience. In this country also the Roman letters were preferred in the schools at Manchester, York, Bristol, and several others, also by Mr. Littledale, of York, who, having lost his sight when six years old, must be allowed to be a good judge. The blind should be associated with the seeing as much as possible in all their habits and acquirements, but an arbitrary character tends to separate them, and make them as it were a colony of strangers in their own land. Besides, if they have a book in an arbitrary

character, and they come to a word they do not understand, who in a village could render them assistance? Who could read for them from their book when they were tired? Who could communicate with them should they become deaf as well as blind? Almost every alphabet may possess some single advantage over others, but the one to be chosen for the blind should be that which possesses the greatest number of advantages, or is best as a whole. Unfortunately, in comparing alphabets, care is not taken to have them printed the same size and same distance apart, and then the comparison is worthless. It is the opinion of the Lecturer that children should be educated by means of the common alphabet, and if they like afterwards to learn any other on account of some supposed or real advantage it may possess, they might do so. Many blind persons derive much amusement by going into churchyards and reading the grave-stones, but of course only those who have learned the common letters. It should be something very superior indeed to induce us to depart from the ordinary alphabet, and nothing of that kind has yet come to the notice of the Lecturer, although he has examined many systems and heard many able advocates of them, but without altering his own opinion, which every day's experience tends to strengthen. One great mistake in considering which is the best system for the blind is, that the blind themselves are not sufficiently consulted, for they are the best judges after all, and in the end, when they have had a fair chance, will decide the question better than the seeing can for them. Klein, who had fifty years' experience in teaching the blind, says in the Preface to his *Lehrbuch zum Unterrichte der Blinden*, "I never can venture on a short road when it departs far from the common path, and therefore I determined to adopt such modes of instructing the blind as are generally used with those who see,—at least as far as may be, in order that they might the more readily meet with teachers, as few will be at the pains to learn a new system for the sake of giving instruction to a poor blind child. This determined me to use the common Roman alphabet, although it cannot be denied that Dr. Wolke's alphabet, and many others of an arbitrary kind, may possibly be more easily read by the touch; yet, as the blind must live among those who see, we should endeavour to make them in their habits and treatment as like the seeing as possible, in order to spare them many a painful reflection upon their deprivation." Those who have learnt the common alphabet may gain a livelihood by teaching schools for the seeing, or may be parish-clerks, &c. A blind man was postman for many years between Ludlow and Tenbury, and delivered the letters without mistake. A surgeon in Knaresborough had a blind groom who had lived with him sixteen years when the case came under the lecturer's notice, and kept his carriage and horses in as neat a state as any in the town. One of the best elementary Latin schools in Germany is kept by a blind man near Dresden. The arithmetic boards were also exhibited and explained. They consisted of holes, into which little pegs were put to represent the different figures. One had pentagonal holes, and pegs with a single projection at one end to represent the five odd numbers, and two projections at the other end to denote the five even numbers. The other board had saw-cuts across it, so as to divide it into squares of about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch each, in the centre of which was a hole of $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch square, into which square pegs were put; but as these would represent only eight numerals, other pegs were added with differently formed ends, which served for the other two numerals, and for algebra; into the saw-cuts bits of tin were placed to divide fractions, serve as vincula, denote roots, powers, &c. When at the Blind School in Berlin, the lecturer put the following question in arithmetic to the pupils, which was very soon solved *mentally*. If ten men can dig a trench 70 yards long, 3 wide, and 2 deep in thirty-six days of nine hours each, how many men will it require to dig one 60 yards long, 4 wide, and 5 deep in forty days of ten hours each? The lecturer also worked out the sum with his pencil;

but the answers did not agree, one being 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ and the other 23 $\frac{1}{4}$. One boy contended that *he* was right, and on going over the work again he proved to be correct. Many similar questions were often put to the York pupils at their public examinations, and were readily answered by means of the board and pegs, even by boys of eleven or twelve years old. A young man who had learned basket-making in the York school, was also employed by the Mechanics' Institute to attend there certain nights in the week to instruct a class in algebra and geometry, a knowledge of which he had acquired partly in the school, and partly after he left. In his trade he employed a blind companion as a journeyman, to whom he paid from eleven to fourteen shillings a week. The lecturer then explained a simple but ingenious portable printing machine, by which the blind can communicate with one another or with the seeing. He said it was the cleverest, most easily learnt, least liable to get out of order, quickest in operation, and cheapest he had ever seen. It was invented by Mr. Littledale of York. One of its great advantages is that it embosses *upwards*, so that what has been done may be readily examined by the finger without moving the paper, and any alphabet may be used in it. The music board came next. It is about three feet long and about ten inches wide, having raised lines upon it running from one end to the other. Ten of them are flat on the top, and represent the five lines of the treble and of the bass: one line between the bass and treble, two below the bass, and three above the treble, are round on the top, and represent the ledger lines. Both the lines and spaces are pierced with small holes $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch apart, into which pins, variously crooked to represent the different notes, are placed; these pins the blind can make for themselves—a pin with the head on represents a *note*,—one crooked in the same way, but having the head taken off, stands for the *rest* of that note, &c. Between the holes are saw-cuts all across the board, into which bits of tin or pasteboard are placed to serve as bars, so that any piece of music may be written upon it. It is very advantageous in teaching thorough bass, as every note in the chord may be set down, and if the master leave a certain bass on the board as a lesson, the pupil may, in his *absence*, study and harmonize it, and the master can afterwards correct it. *Oral* instruction ends when the master leaves his pupil—therefore much time is gained by the board. It is much used, and with great advantage, in the York school. It was invented in Paris, but improved by Mr. Littledale. One of the numbers of the Magazine for the blind was shown. This publication in embossed Roman letters was edited and printed by Mr. Lambert, a gentleman then living in York, who had been blind from infancy. It continued two years, but was given up on account of the expense. It is a great pity that it was not better supported, as the blind took intense interest in it. The price was sixpence, but now could be printed for much less. A little box was produced, which had been turned, in presence of the lecturer, by one of the blind boys in the York school, and which would have been no mean piece of work for a beginner who had sight. The boy had had only three or four lessons. A specimen of Berlin work, executed by Mr. Littledale as an amusement, was also shown, and several other things. A simple writing frame was next explained, which consisted of a piece of millboard about ten inches square, to which was attached, by hinges, a brass frame having a number of holes in two of its opposite sides; through these a string of catgut was put, which formed lines in pairs across the frame. The pairs of lines were about $\frac{1}{4}$ an inch apart and the lines in each pair $\frac{1}{8}$. To use it, place a sheet of paper on the board, and upon this a sheet of tracing paper, black on the side next to the writing paper; shut the frame, and with a stile or blunt point write between the narrow lines which will give way for the tops and tails of the letters. This was invented at Paris. The lecturer stated that his thanks were due to the Viscount Cranborne, to the Society of Arts, to the Committee of the Blind Schools at St. George's, South-

wark, and at York, and to W. D. Littledale, Esq., for the loan of various books, maps, and apparatus for teaching the blind, and for specimens of their work.

GEOLOGICAL.—*May 4th.*—Col. Portlock, V.P., in the chair. P. W. Wall, Esq., was elected a Fellow. The following communications were read. 1. 'On a Freshwater Deposit in the Drift, in Huntingdonshire,' by the Rev. H. M. De la Condamine, F.G.S. At Hemingford Abbots, near Huntingdon, beds of diagonally stratified sand, separated by a seam of marl, are intercalated between the fine and the coarse gravel. The latter is below, and contains mammalian remains, but no shells, except remains of serpulæ in the sheltered corners of the large flints at the base of the section; the sand and marl contain abundant land and freshwater shells of recent species—pupa, helix, valvata, succinea oblonga, &c. The author argued, from the great numerical proportion of land shells, that the seam and patches of marl indicated a suberial condition of the surface, resembling that of a marsh liable to frequent overflow. He considered that the phenomena of the section indicated (1) an upheaval after the deposit of the coarse gravel; (2) a subsidence until the completion of the gravel; and (3) a re-elevation and destruction of the deposits of the river which temporarily discharged itself through the valley. The author proposed the term "stratula" for those smaller subdivisions of strata which are frequently arranged obliquely. 2. 'On the Fluvio-Marine Tertiaries of the Isle of Wight,' by Prof. E. Forbes, President. The greater part of the Isle of Wight, north of the great chalk ridge, has been hitherto regarded as composed of eocene beds of freshwater and estuary origin, and of the age of those composing Headdon Hill. Two geologists only have maintained the existence of higher strata of eocene age—viz., Mr. Prestwich, who rightly suggested that the beds of Hempstead Hill, near Yarmouth, were superior to those of Headdon, and M. Hebert, who wrongly took a similar view of the beds in Colwell Bay. The former geologist, moreover, maintained that the Headdon Hill beds are of the age of the upper calcaire grossier of the Paris basin, and not newer. The author of this paper finds that, contrary to received views, almost all the surface of the island, north of the chalk, is composed of strata higher in the series than the Headdon beds, and intermediate between these and the beds of Hempstead Hill; that all the limestones, except those of Headdon Hill itself, belong to the system of these higher strata; that there are two systems of rolls or undulations of these beds and of all the tertiaries, one parallel to, and the other at right angles with, the strike of the chalk ridge; that both these undulations affect the chalk itself; that Whitecliff Bay, in the fluvio-marine portion of its beds, does not represent Headdon Hill, as has hitherto been maintained, but includes some two hundred feet of higher beds; and that over and above the Headdon series there are two, if not three, sets of beds characterised by peculiar fossils. At the same time, although there is ample evidence for showing that the two upper of these series are the equivalents of the lower miocene of foreign authors, there is also good proof that they all belong to the eocene system. The author proposes the following classification for the fluvio-marine eocene tertiaries of the borders of the Solent. 1. The Hempstead Series, 170 feet thick, composed of marls and clays, the uppermost of which are marine. This division, of small superficial extent, is the equivalent of the Limburg beds of Belgium, and, in part, of the Mayence basin, and of the Grès de Fontainebleau. To the level of the middle and lower portions of this series, the so-called miocenes of Malta, and equivalent beds in Barbary, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France, may now with probability be referred. The distinctness of the vertebrate remains contained in these beds from those of Binstead and Hordwell was several years ago indicated by the Marchioness of Hastings. 2. The Bembridge Series, about 130 feet thick, consisting of estuary marls, marine beds, and freshwater limestones (those of Bem-

bridge, Sconce, Binstead, &c.), abounding in peculiar fossils, and forming almost the whole of the north shore of the Isle of Wight. This group is the equivalent of the gypsiferous series of the Paris basin. 3. The St. Helen's Beds, from 60 to 100 feet thick, variously composed of estuary and freshwater origin, becoming in part good building stone to the east of Ryde. These beds, possibly representing in part the Grès de Beauchamp, separate the Bembridge from, 4thly, the Headdon Series, 170 feet or more of strata forming three divisions, long known as the upper freshwater, inter-marine, and lower freshwater. The Hordwell fluvio-marine beds belong to part of this division.

LINNEAN.—*May 3rd.*—Robert Brown, Esq., President, in the chair. William Clarke, Esq., was elected a Fellow, and Professor von Schlechtendal and M. Tulasne were elected Foreign Members. Among the donations announced by the Secretary as having been received since the last meeting, were dried specimens of 300 species of Portuguese plants, collected and presented by Dr. Frederick Welwitsch; dried specimens of several species of ferns from Mr. S. Mossman's Australian collections; two strongly-marked varieties of *Pteris aquilina* from Hampstead Heath; and specimens of flowering plants from the Apothecaries' Garden, Chelsea, presented by Thomas Moore, Esq., F.L.S.; and a model of the monument erected in Chelsea churchyard to the memory of Philip Miller, and recently restored by the aid of the Fellows of the Linnean and Horticultural Societies. Read the conclusion of Mr. C. J. F. Bunbury's memoir "On the Vegetation of Buenos Ayres and the neighbouring Districts." The portion of the paper read this evening consisted of observations on the characteristic features and geographical range (at the Cape of Good Hope as well as in South America) of some of the principal families of plants which occur within the Argentine region.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.*—Statistical, 8 p.m.—(Dr. Guy, on the Immediate and Remote Effect of the Remission of Customs and Excise Duties on the Productiveness of those Branches of the Revenue.)
—British Architects, 8 p.m.
Tuesday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(W. Carpmel, Esq., on the Electric Telegraph.)
—Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(1. Mr. J. Leslie, on Stirling's Air Engine; 2. Mr. C. Manby, on the Caloric Engine; 3. Mr. C. W. Siemens, on the Conversion of Heat into Mechanical Effect.)
—Pathological, 8 p.m.
—Pharmaceutical, 11 a.m.—(Anniversary.)
Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.
—Geological, 8½ p.m.—(1. Sir P. de M. G. Egerton, on Tetraplolepis and other Fossil Fishes; 2. J. Prestwich, jun., Esq., on the Middle Division of the Lower London Tertiaries, forming the Woolwich and Reading Series.)
—Literary Fund, 3 p.m.
—Réunion des Arts, (Soirée.)
Thursday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Dr. E. Frankland, on Technological Chemistry.)
—Botanic Gardens, 3 p.m.—(R. Bentley, Esq., on Plants in a State of Life and Action.)
—Harveian, 8 p.m.
Friday.—Royal Institution, 8½ p.m.—(Dr. E. Frankland, Observations, Economical and Sanitary, on the Employment of Chemical Light for Artificial Illumination.)
—Department of Practical Art, 7 p.m.—(Professor Semper, on Industrial Art and Architecture.)
Saturday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Dr. J. Tyndall, on Air and Water.)
—Asiatic, 2 p.m.—(Anniversary.)
—Medical, 8 p.m.
—Botanic, 4 p.m.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, May 11th.

ALL Paris, learned and unlearned, gentle and simple, has been for the last fortnight, and still is, deeply occupied with the singular phenomenon of tables, hats, porcelain vases, and other things, but especially tables, being set in motion, or made to whirl round and round with some rapidity by the simple imposition of human hands, touching each other by the extremities of the thumbs and little fingers. The 'Literary Gazette,' in its last two

numbers, had some account of the phenomenon; and the experiments that have been made in this city within the last few days by men of science, letters, or social rank—experiments in which anything like fraud or juggling was impossible—leave no doubt whatever of its reality. The most extraordinary feature in it is, that the operators, when once they have set the table in motion, can direct it by their will—making it turn, untouched, from side to side, backwards or forwards, as readily as if it were a doll pulled by strings, or a learned dog performing its tricks. Amongst the persons who have publicly testified to the truth of experiments made by them are—Dr. Latour, editor of one of the medical journals; Jules Janin, of the 'Débats,' A. Lireux, theatrical critic of the 'Constitutionnel,' and several others of equal note. These gentlemen are not gullible fools easily imposed on; and it is not to be supposed for one moment that they would deliberately tell falsehoods for the sake of imposing on the public. We have, then, the established fact that the electricity from the human body can, so to speak, animate inanimate substances, and give life, and it may almost be said intelligence, to inert wood. This is evidently one of those "things not dreamt of in our philosophy," of which the poet spoke. The speculations to which it has given rise are very curious. Some people will have it that it is nothing less than a marked advance towards the discovery of the great and mysterious secret of what composes human life, or at least that it is the opening of a wider and nobler field of human knowledge than any now possessed; whilst others opine that it is a sort of unconscious magic, and hence they assume that the art of the Baptista Portas and the Michael Scotts was not only no imposture, as our ancestors and ourselves have sagely decided, but the greatest of all arts—the most wonderful of all sciences. So convinced is one of the principal daily papers that something extraordinarily great is destined to flow from this magnetism, or magic, or whatever it may be, that it has resolved to set apart a certain portion of its space daily to records of what may be done in it; and it has specially engaged to superintend it a gentleman, who is, or professes to be, an adept both in white and black necromancy, and even well read in the Rosicrucian mysteries. Others, too, have thoughts of advertising—"Wanted a Magician!" But though in the hands of such incorrigible *forceurs* as these French, the thing runs the risk of being turned into an absurdity by being carried too far, or diverted from its proper channel, let us hope that some men of real science and learning will think it worthy of investigation. The matter cannot remain where it is. We must ascertain how electricity is generated in the human body, and whether the emanation of it cannot be turned to some purpose higher or more useful than that of making mahogany tables dance.

If any new Disraeli were to write the 'Aménities' of modern French literature, he would have to devote a long chapter to duelling. Fighting seems as much a characteristic of French scribblers as it is of wild Irishmen;—one shelf at least in their libraries is occupied with pistols and swords, and a flask of gunpowder is as necessary to them in the exercise of their calling as a bottle of ink. Within the last few days we have had a new specimen of their natural pugnacity. A M. Mouset, in a notice in the *Artiste* on Émile Augier's new play, thought fit to say that it smacked of immorality, and that it proved that the author, if the occasion should offer, would not hesitate to write for profit such a scandalous piece as the *Dame aux Camélias* of the younger Dumas. At this Augier took offence, and, as every other offended *littérateur* would have done, he dispatched a brace of friends to ask the offender at what time next morning it would please him to be run through the body. The critic answered that he had a mortal antipathy to cold steel, and, besides that, he was not skilled in fencing, but that he was perfectly ready to stand at twenty paces and let the poet discharge a loaded pistol at him—he returning the compliment. Some technical difficulty, according to the duelling code, arose as to

whether Augier as the challenger could forego the choice of arms; but after much anxious deliberation, it was resolved that this knotty point should be settled by the critic being transformed from the offender into the offended. This was accordingly done by Augier meeting him in the saloon of the Théâtre Français, and, by gesture, throwing his glove in his face. Instantly the critic demanded reparation with pistols; and the two adversaries went next morning by railway to a wood near St. Germain. There they popped at each other, but fortunately without doing any harm, and then they returned quietly home to breakfast. Really it is high time that this mischievous tomfoolery of literary duelling were done away with altogether. It is intolerable that a critic, who, in the exercise of an honest duty, may happen to wound the too susceptible vanity of a small poet, or small scribbler of any kind, should be subjected to the risk of murdering or being murdered. Amongst French authors there is a good deal of *esprit de corps*, and if the critical portion of them would, once for all, come to a resolution to answer no challenges from the criticised, challenges would soon cease to be sent. As a necessary corollary from this, they should carefully refrain from all personalities whatsoever. The gain to literature thereby would be very great. An unfavourable criticism would not, as at present, be considered a personal insult, and a sound school of criticism, which is much needed, would be established; whilst, on the other hand, readers would be relieved from the nuisance of constant references to or accounts of the personal quarrels of writers about whom they care nothing.

There have been some notable events in the musical world of late, but only two need be mentioned. One of them is the production of a five-act opera by Niedermeyer, at the Grand Opéra. This composer (who, by the way, is not a German, notwithstanding the Teutonic orthography of his name) is known for two or three previous works of great pretensions—one of them founded on the history of Mary Stuart, and above all for some very elegant and touching musical versions of Lamartine's poems. But his opera is a failure, though there are some pretty *morceaux* in it. The other incident to be mentioned is a small opera by Duprez, called *La Lettre au bon Dieu*, brought out at the Opéra Comique. The title is objectionable on religious grounds, the plot is childish silly, the libretto is weak, and the music is wretched. People are astonished that a man of Duprez's high standing in the musical world could have lent his name to such commonplace trash as this composition. It would have been hissed off the stage on the very first night, if it had not been supported by the beauty, grace, and talent of his daughter. He has since been obliged to withdraw it, though in doing so he has growled in a letter to the newspapers that the failure is to be ascribed not to want of merit in the thing—oh dear no!—but to "an impassable rampart of anger, malevolence, and hatred being interposed between him and the public."

VARIETIES.

Lieutenant Bellot.—This officer, who is about to proceed in the Arctic Expedition to Beechy Island, under the orders of Commander Inglefield, R.N., and who has distinguished himself in a former Polar Expedition, particularly in a long sledge journey in company with the intrepid Kennedy, of the *Prince Albert*, was present at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday evening last, and was complimented in a marked manner by the president, Sir Roderick Murchison. The geographers testified their warm approbation of the sentiments which were expressed by the president in respect of M. Bellot, as an officer who united the gallantry, promptitude, and skill of his own nation, with the sturdy perseverance of a British seaman; and which further expressed the hope that a person so rich in scientific resources, and so endowed with good sense, might at no distant day be employed by his own Government as the chief of a separate survey. Advertising to

other services of M. Bellot in French ships which co-operated with the British squadrons in the River La Plata and on the coasts of Africa, the President congratulated the meeting on the nomination of an officer as a corresponding member of the Society, who was beloved by all the Englishmen with whom he had served, and who was a perfect type of the right feeling which mutually prevailed in the naval service of the two countries. Lieutenant Bellot made a very suitable and effective reply, which was highly applauded.—*The Times*.

Mr. Jacob Abbott has added another to his miscellaneous collection of Histories—a life of the Emperor Nero. It is difficult, at first, to perceive what could have induced this peculiar selection of a subject for the youth of the country and the 'million.' The temptation has been, we suppose, that it lies out of the common track of reading, and that its remarkable vicissitudes and horrors present themes of ready-made interest. It is not difficult to keep the attention alive with a fresh intrigue, a conspiracy, a murder, or a poisoning in every page. It is very questionable, however, whether this is the best food for children and the family circle. The political and moral lessons, no doubt, sternly inculcated by the terrible facts of Nero's reign, are profitable, but they should be left for other occasions and avenues of instruction. Who would entertain the minds of boys and girls with the ingenuities of the poisoning art, or fix their attention on such spiced horrors as the sedan chair of Epicharis, or the wanton gardens of Messalina—both of these topics fixed in the attention by the aid of engravings?—*New York Literary World*.

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